

Honorable members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Erin Casimiro, and I address you today not only as a CRNA in the state of Rhode Island, but as a concerned constituent. I cannot claim any impressive board titles, or numerous publications to my name, but I do have the experience of working quite frequently in the endoscopy setting. I know first-hand, after performing thousands of this type of anesthetic, just how quickly sedation with propofol can become a general anesthetic lacking an advanced airway. I have also had to intervene upon untoward side effects of this method of anesthesia, and feel quite confident in stating that even we as anesthesia providers do not give ourselves credit in how frequently and quickly we make these assessments and interventions as though they are second nature to us. This is especially so for patients having their endoscopy procedures done in the hospital setting, as they are often particularly fragile and labile.

I say all of this as someone who has completed the education and training necessary to be able to safely administer propofol in the endoscopy setting. I cannot speak to the jobs of NPs in emergency departments or ICUs, as I do not do that job. In conversing with a NP who is also a friend, we both agreed that we would never presume to be able to do each other's jobs. There is no ego or malice intended here toward our highly valuable NP colleagues; these are simply the facts. We are educated differently. We are trained differently. We have different roles within the healthcare system. We are not interchangeable, otherwise there would be no distinction between CRNA and NP.

I do not want to see any of my NP colleagues unable to perform within their scope of practice, and I certainly do not want to limit access to care for Rhode Island residents. I do, however, take the safety of my patients very seriously, as I'm certain everyone involved here does. As it has been presented time and again, propofol should only be administered in the endoscopy setting by those who have the training and expertise in delivering general anesthesia. I ask that you please take this into consideration when deliberating on this bill. Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Casimiro', written in a cursive style.

Erin Casimiro, MSN, CRNA