

Bill H 8237 – PRO
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Good evening Chairwoman Donovan, and the distinguished members of this committee. My name is Gerald Murphy, Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). I live in Coventry Rhode Island, and I've been working as a CRNA since I graduated the Yale New Haven Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia in 2016. I am the past president of the Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

I strongly support House Bill 8237. This bill will greatly improve patient safety at all medical facilities in the State of Rhode Island because it will ensure that general anesthesia medications will only be administered by persons educated and certified in general anesthesia. The most widely used intravenous general anesthesia medication is Propofol. Propofol is a unique pharmacological agent that induces a state of general anesthesia very rapidly. Most individuals will recover and wake up from propofol in about 10 minutes. Propofol has no antidote nor reversal agent. Once Propofol has been injected into a patient, a patient is completely dependent on medical professionals to monitor vital life processes (examples include airway patency, breathing and ventilation, arterial oxygen tension, cardiovascular stability, and end organ perfusion). In the event of unrecognized airway compromise, or inadequate cardiovascular stabilization, a young and healthy patient may have enough reserves to survive upwards of 5 minutes. Older patients, and those with pathologic comorbidities (lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, undiagnosed obstructive sleep apnea) will have less time to be rescued. Propofol can be an extremely dangerous agent.

Physician anesthesiologists and CRNAs spend years in the classroom learning the science of anesthesia and spend thousands of hours in clinical settings administering anesthesia. This enormous investment prepares anesthesia professionals to enter practice. These anesthesia educational programs are overseen by credentialing councils that scrutinize programs to ensure the trainees are receiving all the education and experience required to safely enter practice. It is a terrifying prospect to consider practitioners who have not undergone the rigors of accredited anesthesia education would administer general anesthesia medications.

Propofol is a powerful anesthesia medication with the potential to be deadly. The American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiologists, the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation, and the Food and Drug Administration have all published statements that Propofol should only be administered by persons trained in general anesthesia. Please help keep all Rhode Islanders safe. Please support House Bill

8237 so the only providers pushing propofol are those educated, trained, and experienced in anesthesia care.

Thank you.

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