

House Committee Health and Human Services
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

May 14, 2024

Re: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 8237 "An act relating to the business and professions – nurse anesthetists"

Dear Chairperson Donovan and members of the HHS Committee,

I am Kristin Soccio, the Clinical Manager and Nurse Practitioner of the Pediatric Sedation Team/Service in the state of RI. I reside in Portsmouth, RI.

I oppose the House Bill 8237, titled An act relating to the business and professions – nurse anesthetists.

I have been working in the field of Pediatric Sedation as a Nurse Practitioner for 17 years. This service provides children in RI and surrounding states with sedation in order to complete unpleasant procedures or imaging studies that are medically necessary to provide standard of care for these patients.

A. PATIENTS: Patients who need:

- Intrathecal Chemotherapy treatments, given through a large needle through the spine and into the cerebral spinal fluid.
- Bone Marrow biopsies with large bore needle into the bone, and extracting marrow.
- For toddlers to remain still for a 2 hour MRI to detect bone infections or cancer lesions.
- For patient who need liver or kidney biopsies, long skinny needles into the organ to obtain organ tissue.

These procedures are just a few of the many short procedures, done outside the operating room, that need sedation services.

I have used a variety of medication to successfully and safely sedate patients, including: Propofol, Ketamine, Versed, Fentanyl, Precedex, etc.

B. AUTHORIZED: I have been given the authority to use these medication by the following:

- Under my license as a Board Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, after completing a Master's degree in Nursing.

- Credentialed by the Medical Staffing Board at Rhode Island Hospital, completing all required education and hands-on credentialing and orientation, set by the Chief of Anesthesia and Department requirements.
- Approved by the Chief of Anesthesia for all of Lifespan,
- Overseen by an ICU Attending, readily available and present during all sedations.
- With Standard guidelines and policies set by FDA administration guidelines, Society of Pediatric Sedation Guidelines, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Pediatric Critical Care Medicine.

C. SAFETY:

- I can testify that within my 17 years in the role, the Pediatric Sedation Team at Hasbro Children's hospital has had an incredible safety record, with zero fatalities and zero harm to patients. Currently we provide sedation for 2,000 patients/year.
- Using Propofol in small doses can be proven safer than using larger doses of Versed & Fentanyl. Limiting the use of certain medications could be forcing us choose less safe options.
- We use an intense screening of the patient and necessity of sedation prior to scheduling the patient. If the patient or procedure does not fit in the safety criteria for our service, we immediately refer to the Anesthesia service.

These are only a few points as to why these medications must be available for Nurse Practitioners to administer in a hospital setting to provide the best and safest care to the patients in RI and surrounding states.

I urge you to vote against House Bill 8237.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kristin Soccio
389 Bristol Ferry Rd.
Portsmouth, RI 02871