

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 entitled An Act Relating to the Business and Professions- Nurse Anesthetists

Dear Chairperson Donovan and members of the HHS Committee,

I am Michelle Leveillee from Coventry District 28, and am a Certified Nurse Practitioner and belong to Rhode Island State Nurses Association and the NP Alliance of Rhode Island. I also work for Lifespan Corporation.

I oppose House Bill 8237 titled An Act Relating to the Business and Professions- Nurse Anesthetists.

I oppose Bill 8237 because...

- Nurse Practitioners can practice safely and within our scope of practice, in regards to, giving moderate sedation and the various medications utilized in the types of procedures that require light to moderate sedation.
- The definition of “sedation”, in itself, does not imply “administering anesthesia”; in medicine, sedation has a variety of meanings and uses.
- Some of the medications utilized in light to moderate sedation may also be prescribed for other purposes in medicine that include sedation when a patient is intubated and ventilated; these medications may include, and are not limited to, propofol (Diprivan), dexmedetomidine (Precedex), midazolam (Versed), diazepam (Valium), ketamine, and fentanyl.
- These medications may also be utilized in aiding patients with muscle spasms, acute pain (while patients are in a facility), and moderate to severe anxiety.
- All nurse practitioners that prescribe must maintain a NPI number, as well as, a DEA license, and the training, that is required to upkeep these licensures.
- It is also within our scope or practice and within the guidelines of Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), including as a registered nurse, to maintain patients’ airway during a medical emergency or situation until a qualified provider is able to assist, such as an Anesthesiologist.
- In state-wide, medical facilities where nurse practitioners may work and perform procedures involving sedation, Anesthesia is a service that is available 24/7 to assist with emergencies that arise.

I urge you to vote against Bill 8237.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak against Bill 8237. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Michelle G. Leveillee

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Coventry, Rhode Island 02816

House District 28