

5/13/24

Re:2024-House bill H-8237

My name is Paul Kilmartin CRNA. My wife Pam and I are both Nurse Anesthetists. We have practiced our profession in both Rhode Island and Florida for the past 32 years. Pam presently practices nurse anesthesia as a Captain in The Navy. She also serves as an instructor for Nurses in the Navy. I am newly retired from anesthesia. Approximately 5 years ago I was approached to be the chief anesthetist at the second busiest Endoscopy center in the state of Florida. I was approached due the anesthesiologist in charge was retiring. It was then when I agreed to be the chief anesthetist in a newly formed all CRNA group consisting of ten CRNA's. This facility did an excess of 100 cases a day. That CRNA practice model continues to this day. The Gastroenterologists partners were well aware of the educational, clinical and statutory requirements of CRNA practice and quite confident and comfortable with their patients being under the care of CRNA's. Our practice also consisted of 20 Nurse Practitioners. The CRNA's and NP' collaborated together to assure the highest quality of care. We evaluated the patients together on the pre-op visit. The CRNA's provided the anesthetic on the day of the procedure. The NP's followed up post operatively in the office and our patients, physicians and ancillary staff operated a well-oiled machine that produced the highest quality of care.

As a present member and past president of the RIANA I feel compelled to testify on the above piece of legislation. It seems to me that the subject matter in this bill, has already been addressed years ago. By existing state statute, it is clearly stated what health care professional can or cannot safely administer anesthesia to the patients of Rhode Island. This very issue was debated and addressed by the legislature, which deemed it necessary to pass the law protecting the patients of Rhode Island.

However, it comes as no surprise, that this is being challenged once again. Also, it comes as no surprise that the RIANA is once again being the patient advocate. First and foremost is patient safety which has always been and will always be, a priority of every Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. What amazes me is that anyone involved the delivery of health care would even think of compromising the safety of their own patients due to their own self-induced losses in their institution. What's even worse, they used the professionals in the Nursing community through deceptive measures to try to achieve this. On top of that they are trying to manipulate all government and health care entities as well.

As everyone knows, the practice of Nurse Anesthesia is the gold standard. A gold standard due to hard work, education and commitment to our profession. More importantly, patients depend, trust and expect the highest quality of anesthesia care given by CRNA's in Rhode Island. Unless this problem is resolved by the regulatory agencies it is our duty to push for the passage of this legislation for the well-being of the people of Rhode Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Paul Kilmartin, CRNA, MSNA  
Pfkgas@gmail.com