



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Chairperson Susan Donovan
House Health & Human Services Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 24HB-8237

OPPOSE (AGAINST)

May 14, 2024

Dear Chair Donovan,

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society to express our strong opposition to the proposed legislation identified as S-3035. This legislation, which prohibits nurse practitioners from independently administering propofol and other general anesthetics, is premature and overlooks ongoing evaluations by the Rhode Island Department of Health.

Key Concerns:

- **Regulatory Versus Legislative Actions:** Scope of practice should be governed by regulatory bodies, not legislation. These agencies are equipped to adjust more dynamically to the evolving healthcare landscape, ensuring decisions are based on up-to-date medical standards.
- **Access and Team-Based Care:** The bill could significantly impact patient care, particularly in underserved areas. Nurse practitioners play a critical role in these communities and in team-based healthcare settings. Limiting their scope of practice could hinder access to essential medical services.

The Rhode Island Medical Society strongly recommends that scope of practice issues, particularly concerning the administration of anesthetics by nurse practitioners, remain under the purview of regulatory authorities who can respond swiftly and appropriately to changes in medical practice and patient care needs.

Thank you for considering our stance on this critical legislative matter.

Sincerely,

Heather Smith, MD, MPH
President