



Empowering PAs through Advocacy and Education
RHODE ISLAND ACADEMY of PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

May 12, 2024

The Honorable Rep. Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI, 02903

RE: Written Testimony on 2024 – **H-8237** AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES -- NURSE ANESTHETISTS

Position: Neutral with concerns regarding language

Thank you Chairwoman Donovan and members of the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on H-8237

As the professional association representing over 900 Rhode Island licensed physician assistants (PAs), the Rhode Island Academy of PAs (RIAPA) is concerned with bill H-8237 in its current form.

The following list highlights our areas of concern:

- Our biggest concern is that this legislation is too broad in nature, doesn't account for all patient environments, nuances or situations
- Directly impacts procedural areas as well as directly impacting Critical Care Areas, ERs, Medical and Surgical ICUs.
- May limit access for patients and could potentially lead to having send patients out of state for sedation assisted procedures such as colonoscopies, endoscopies, and pediatric imaging.
- These bills will increase length of stay for inpatient units by increasing delays in obtaining procedures that require sedation
- May increase healthcare costs by now requiring anesthesiologists or CRNAs to provide sedation and care to a patient population that has been traditionally and safely managed by MDs, DOs, PAs, and NPs.
- Restricts RNs from administering or titrating sedating medications on non-intubated patients in critical care areas, where that is exactly what these RNs are trained and credentialed to do.
- We are concerned when the practice of medicine such as the choice of medications used and how medications are delivered becomes part of the legislative process rather than a regulatory process.

- Medicine is constantly evolving and to legislate restrictions in this particular area would likely result in an annual review and possibly need for ongoing updates and revisions which would be easier through a regulatory process.
- This bill seems to try and address issues that are better served and solved by the regulatory process and not through legislation.

In summary, the RIAPA believes that H-8237 in it's present form does not serve patients or providers and create restrictions that limit access and create an additional burden on the healthcare system and healthcare workforce. We would be happy to work with the bill sponsors with our concerns.

I'm available for any questions.

Respectfully,

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