

Dear Honorable House Members,

We are writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Society of Health-System Pharmacists (RISHP) to express our support for legislative efforts, including Bill H7139, introduced by Representatives J. Lombardi, Hull, Felix, Stewart, Cruz, and Tanzi, which addresses the controlling high prescription costs and regulating Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs).

As dedicated healthcare professionals committed to providing quality patient care, we acknowledge the undeniable impact of rising prescription drug costs on the health and well-being of our communities. The findings presented in the bill underscore the need for comprehensive reform in the regulation of PBMs, particularly in their role as intermediaries between insurers, pharmacies, and patients.

The proposed legislation, with its emphasis on transparency, fair reimbursement practices, and consumer protection, aligns with our mission to ensure access to affordable and effective medications for all Rhode Islanders. We would like to highlight the connection between improved reimbursement for pharmacies and the alleviation of pharmacist staffing shortages. By addressing the financial challenges faced by pharmacies, this legislation has the potential to create a more sustainable and attractive working environment for pharmacists. As pharmacists play a pivotal role in patient care, ensuring fair reimbursement not only supports the financial viability of pharmacies but also contributes to enhanced staffing levels, ultimately benefiting the communities we serve.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to the positive impact of this legislation on the health of our community.

Sincerely,

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