



February 29, 2024

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rhode Island State House  
[HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov)

Re: **Testimony SUPPORTING House Bills 7042, 7443, and 7444**, to lower prescription drug costs for all Rhode Islanders, as well as **7623, 7625, 7445, 7364, 7140, 7566, 7043, and 7041** to increase equity and access, and limit the influence and unreasonable control exercised by pharmaceutical companies and insurance companies

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of this great package of prescription drug legislation, including three bills to lower the cost of prescription drugs for all Rhode Islanders: House Bills 7042, 7443, and 7444.

ABC-RI works to improve the quality of life and care for Rhode Islanders residing in long-term care facilities. The high costs of long-term care can be a barrier to quality care. One of the most intractable high healthcare costs that we all bear is that of prescription drugs.

**HB7444:** Wholesale prescription drug importation makes medication affordable and accessible to all Rhode Islanders. **HB7443:** By using international reference pricing, individuals/payers would benefit from significant savings on their annual drug spending. **HB7042:** Protects consumers from sudden spikes in prescription drug prices, and eliminates the need for those on low and modest incomes to choose between life-saving drugs and other essentials.

One in five older adults report having to forgo filling their prescription or skipping doses to save money on their medications. This is not only unacceptable at a basic human level, but leads to poor health outcomes that cost individuals, insurers, and taxpayers more in the end than affordable prescriptions would.

We would like to voice our support for all of the bills in this package of prescription drug-related legislation, but are focusing on these three as most impactful for the sake of brevity.

Thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gerard,  
ABC-RI