

To: Chairwoman Donovan and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee

Re: House Bills 7042, 7443 and 7444

I am Daniel Liparini, and I am writing in support of the above three House Bills. I believe that these bills taken together will dramatically reduce the cost of prescription drugs for our fellow Rhode Island citizens.

It is no secret that the majority of drug company revenue and profits are derived in the United States. Numerous studies have demonstrated that Americans on average are charged 3 times more than other developed countries for the exact same brand name prescription drugs. This of course is the main reason millions of Americans go to other countries to fill their prescriptions every year. The cost savings are more than enough to cover their travel expenses. Unfortunately, this high cost is also the reason why millions of Americans are forced to either ration or do without needed medications. This same issue affects many of our fellow Rhode Islanders.

This high cost has a major impact on senior citizens on fixed incomes who on average take more than four prescriptions. The out-of-pocket cost is a big burden, plus it increases the cost of Medicare Part D for all of us.

HB 7443 limits the cost of prescription drugs to the reference rate (which is what other countries are paying on average). This would provide Rhode Islanders access to the same drugs at the same price that the rest of the world pays.

HB 7444 allows the wholesale importation of drugs from Canada. This would make medications more affordable for all Rhode Islanders as it would put pressure on drug companies to reduce prices to a more reasonable level.

And HB 7042 regulates price increases year over year. This would prevent sudden and unreasonable increases in the cost of needed medications.

There is no reason why Americans should pay more for the same drugs than the rest of the world, except to maintain or increase pharmaceutical companies' profits. We need these bills passed in order to make medications more affordable for Rhode Islanders.

Please support the passage of all three bills.

Sincerely,

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