



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Honorable Susan Donovan
Chair
House Health & Human Services Committee
Room 135
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 24H-7444

SUPPORT (FOR)

February 29, 2024

Dear Chairman Donovan,

The Rhode Island Medical Society would like to thank Representative Tanzi for introducing H 7444, An Act Relating to Food and Drugs – Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Program. This bill establishes the Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Program for the importation of wholesale prescription drugs from Canada to provide savings to Rhode Island consumers.

This legislation will allow Rhode Island to leverage the FDA's drug manufacturing inspection program and existing pharmaceutical distribution supply chains to import commercial quantities of select high-cost drugs from Canada to US importers for use by consumers in Rhode Island and potentially save the state millions of dollars. On January 5, 2024, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Florida's Canadian Prescription Drug Importation Program. This approval is expected to save Florida up to \$180 million in the first year.¹

We strongly encourage you and your committee members to act favorably on this important legislation.

Founded in 1812, the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) is the eighth oldest medical society in the country. RIMS is the vehicle by which the medical community in Rhode Island meets the evolving challenges of medical practice and quality patient care.

Please let us know if we can provide any additional information or if you have any questions on our testimony. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heather Smith, MD, MPH
President

¹ <https://www.flgov.com/2024/01/05/florida-becomes-first-in-the-nation-to-have-canadian-drug-importation-program-approved-by-fda/>