



M. Teresa Paiva Weed
President

March 19, 2024

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: SUPPORT – H. 7365

Dear Chairperson Donovan:

The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and its members support H. 7365 by Representative Caldwell, an act which ensures patient choice in dispensing of clinician-administered drugs for Rhode Island.

Insurance companies should not be able to dictate that a patient must depend on a pharmacy benefit manager to deliver their needed therapies to that healthcare facility. Mandating that providers can no longer procure and manage specialty drugs for their patients disrupts carefully constructed systems of care and presents several challenges for patients and providers including delays in patient care and the waste of expensive medication.

Care plan modifications often occur on the day of treatment, after the provider has reviewed the patient's most recent labs or measurements. Generally, once filled and labeled, expensive specialty drugs cannot be substituted or modified; they must be discarded. To avoid waste and to account for these last-minute adjustments, ordinarily, providers and hospitals purchase specialty drugs from in-house or nearby specialty pharmacies that can fill medication orders quickly and that meet the provider's quality standards.

HARI believes that patients and providers must have choice in obtaining clinician-administered drugs, and that payers should not be permitted to unilaterally require methods of distribution that disrupt the patient experience and impair the provider's ability to provide optimal patient care. For these reasons HARI and its members support passage of H. 7365 and appreciate your consideration of this important healthcare issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso".

Lisa P. Tomasso
Senior Vice President