



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Honorable Susan Donovan
Chair
House Committee on Health & Human Services
House Lounge
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 24H-7365

SUPPORT (FOR)

March 19, 2024

Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

The Rhode Island Medical Society respectfully offers the following testimony in support of H 7365, An Act Relating to Insurance – Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies. The bill prohibits healthcare entities from interfering with a patient's right to choose to obtain a clinician-administered drug from their provider or pharmacy of choice.

We thank Representative Caldwell for introducing this important legislation that preserves choice for our patients. This legislation will ensure that providers can procure and manage the handling of a drug used in patient care instead of a third-party specialty pharmacy. Today, payers or PBMs can require insurance coverage of a patient's physician-administered prescription drug to be dependent on a physician receiving the products from a payer or PBM-selected pharmacy (often a specialty pharmacy). This legislation helps protect against delays in treatment and possible safety concerns.

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 for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heather Smith, MD, MPH
President