



**Rhode Island Hospital**  
**The Miriam Hospital**  
*Lifespan. Delivering health with care.*

March 19, 2024

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

Re: SUPPORT – H. 7365

Dear Chair Donovan:

I support H. 7365, an act which ensures patient choice in dispensing of clinician-administered drugs for Rhode Island.

The practice of white bagging occurs when insurance companies make coverage of needed patient-specific medications contingent on the medication being distributed from a third-party specialty pharmacy versus allowing providers to buy and then bill for the medication and its administration or buy from a provider pharmacy of choice.

Mandating that providers can no longer procure and manage specialty drugs for their patients disrupts carefully constructed systems of care. 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. These policies present a number of challenges for patients and providers.

White bagging has major impacts on our cancer patients and increases the complexity of delivery of their medicines while reducing our pharmacies ability to have oversight, tracking and teaching of oral chemotherapy.

**The Lifespan Cancer Institute** 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 **The Lifespan Cancer Institute** supports passage of H. 7365. We appreciate your continued commitment to improve access and delivery of high-quality healthcare to all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Howard Safran, MD  
Professor of Medicine, Brown University  
Director, Hematology/Oncology

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