



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

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

Re: 24H-7822

SUPPORT

March 19, 2024

Dear Chair Donovan,

The Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) would like to thank Representative McGaw for introducing H 7822, An Act Relating to Insurance -- Benefit Determination and Utilization Review Act. This bill limits the use by insurers of step therapy, a protocol that establishes a specific sequence in which prescription drugs for a specified medical condition are covered by an insurer, by allowing medical providers to request step therapy exceptions.

Step therapy, while intended to control costs and ensure the most effective treatment, can often hinder patient care by delaying access to necessary medications or subjecting patients to ineffective treatments before allowing access to more appropriate ones. This protocol can be particularly burdensome for patients with chronic or complex conditions who require timely access to specific medications to manage their health effectively.

This bill is a crucial step in addressing these concerns by allowing medical providers to request exceptions to step therapy protocols when they believe it is in the best interest of their patients. By providing healthcare providers with greater flexibility to determine the most appropriate course of treatment, this legislation ensures that patient care remains paramount.

We strongly encourage you and your committee members to act favorably on this important legislation. By passing this bill, Rhode Island will join other states in prioritizing patient health and well-being while maintaining cost-effective healthcare practices.

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