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ACLU OF RI POSITION: AMEND

**TESTIMONY ON 24-H 8220,
RELATING TO DRUG COST REVIEW COMMISSION
May 9, 2024**

The ACLU of Rhode Island has no position on the overall goal of this legislation to establish a commission to examine the affordability of various prescription drugs, but we do wish to suggest two minor amendments.

The legislation commendably requires the commission to review its drug product cost analysis in public, and also requires public access to various data provided to the commission in making its decision, except for information deemed to be “proprietary.” The standards for determining what information is considered proprietary would also be determined in public. We would simply urge that the bill make clear that the commission’s parameters for making that determination cannot be more secretive (but can be less secretive) than the exemption provided in R.I.G.L. § 38-2-4(B) of the Access to Public Records Act – that law’s exemption for “trade secrets” and other commercial information.

The bill also allows the commission to meet in executive session. [Page 4, lines 5-6]. We would urge a minor clarification that it may do so only for a reason authorized by R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a) of the Open Meetings Act.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.