

5 March 2025

[submitted electronically via: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Chair Susan Donovan, House Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
RE: (H5173 - McGaw)– AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND
SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

My name is Brianna Allison, and I am writing to provide support for (insert bill number here). I am currently a sixth and final year Doctor of Pharmacy student at the University of Rhode Island.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill to provide two (2) glucagon auto-injectors annually at no cost to patients with diabetes. Glucagon is a type of hormone used in instances of severe hypoglycemia, low blood sugar, in patients with diabetes who are unconscious or cannot take a form of glucose by mouth. H5173 has a companion Senate bill (S0115 – Lauria).

Working in a community pharmacy in Rhode Island for more than three years now, glucagon is one of the many medications associated with a high cost. For this reason, many patients choose not to purchase the medication.

Glucagon is a life saving medication needed in emergency situations for people with diabetes as naloxone and Epi-pens are for overdoses and anaphylaxis.

Allowing for 2 auto-injectors to be provided annually would help to relieve some of the financial burdens for patients with diabetes as many of their other supplies can be expensive as well.

Thank you for considering my testimony and I encourage you to pass this legislation.

Brianna Allison
University of Rhode Island PharmD Candidate Class of 2025
Middletown, Rhode Island