

6 March 2025

[submitted electronically via: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Susan Donovan Chair, House Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
RE: H5302 and S0461 – AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE – ACCIDENT AND
SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

My name is Brianna Kimball, and I am a clinical pharmacist licensed and practicing in the state of Rhode Island. I am writing in strong support of bill H5302 and there is an identical companion bill in the Senate, S0461, which would cap the copay of inhalers and related respiratory devices at \$25.00.

As a pharmacist embedded within primary care offices, I see firsthand how the high cost of inhalers creates a significant barrier to care for patients with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). These chronic respiratory conditions require consistent medication access to prevent exacerbations, hospitalizations, and long-term disease progression; however, many of our most vulnerable patients struggle to afford these prescribed medications, oftentimes leading to medication rationing or complete non-adherence, which in turn has detrimental effects on the patient and our healthcare system.

Currently, even with insurance, inhaler copays can be prohibitively expensive, especially for patients managing multiple chronic conditions. By capping the out-of-pocket cost at \$25.00, this bill would improve medication adherence, reduce healthcare utilization, improve patient outcomes, and reduce overall healthcare costs. Moreover, it would ensure that patients in Rhode Island can breathe easier – literally and financially!

I strongly urge you to support H5302 and S0461 to protect patients from the financial burden incurred by essential respiratory medications. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brianna Kimball, PharmD, RPh, BCACP
East Providence, RI