

HB 5853 WHOLESALE PRESCRIPTION DRUG IMPORTATION PROGRAM

Chairwoman Donovan and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

Given that it is very unclear what is going to happen at the federal level, I urge you to support this bill to make prescription drugs more affordable for our fellow Rhode Islanders. High prescription drug prices are unaffordable for most seniors and their families and impact their day-to-day life. One in five older adults report having to forego filling their prescription or skipping doses to save money on their medications.

A Federal House Ways and Means committee study from 2019, showed clearly that Americans pay 3 times what other developed nations pay for prescription drugs – this is clearly unfair.

This legislation would authorize Rhode Island to seek federal approval to import prescription medication on a wholesale basis from Canada. For these drugs, our state could make sure savings are passed on to consumers to help them afford their medications.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,
Daniel Liparini
North Kingstown