

Steven Sepe

From: Kenny Correia <kennycorreia1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 10:55 AM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: Rep. Donovan, Susan R; Rep. Giraldo, Joshua J.; Rep. Potter, Brandon C.; Rep. Ackerman, Mia A.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Boylan, Jennifer; Rep. Fogarty, Kathleen A.; Rep. Cotter, Megan L.; Rep. Handy, Arthur; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M.; Rep. McGaw, Michelle E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Speakman, June; Rep. Stewart, Jennifer A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rhode Island Pharmacists Association; Correia, Kenny
Subject: SUPPORT - H5627 - Coverage for Pharmacists' Services - Kenny Correia

Hi, my name is Dr Kenny Correia, PharmD, and I am writing in support of bill H5627, which would ensure insurance coverage for pharmacists' services, including medication therapy management (MTM) and other critical services.

Dr. Kenny Correia, PharmD, BCACP
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist - Ambulatory Care Specialty
Manager of Pharmacy Services
Anchor Medical Associates

Home Address:
43 Nickerson Street
Cranston, RI 02910

Work Addresses:
Providence Office:
180 Corliss St., 2nd Floor Suite B
Providence, RI 02904-2602

Lincoln Office:
1 Commerce Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, RI 02865

Warwick Office:
400 Bald Hill Road, Suite 520
Warwick, RI 02886

Phone: 401-793-8400
Fax: 401-793-8402

March 5, 2025

The Honorable Susan Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

[submitted electronically via: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov
(mailto:HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov)]

Subject: SUPPORT - H5627 - Coverage for Pharmacists' Services

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill H5627, which mandates health insurance coverage for pharmacists' services, including evaluation and management of patients, medication therapy management (MTM), immunization education and administration, and more. I am also pleased to note that a companion bill has been introduced in the Senate, reflecting the importance of this initiative across our legislative bodies.

As an experienced Ambulatory Care Board Certified Pharmacy Specialist with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Rhode Island, I have dedicated my career to enhancing patient outcomes through direct clinical services. Working within a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) in Providence, I collaborate closely with physicians and other health professionals to ensure that prescribed medications yield the best possible health outcomes. This is achieved through active medication therapy management and the resolution of medication-related problems.

The role of pharmacists like myself is evolving, with an increasing involvement in direct patient care and chronic disease management, which are key components in reducing primary care physicians' workload and increasing patient access to care. Recent studies have highlighted the significant impact that ambulatory care pharmacists have on population health (PH) and direct patient care (DPC) teams. These studies demonstrate that pharmacists in these roles contribute to improved clinical outcomes, financial savings, and enhanced patient satisfaction.

The need for pharmacist billing is crucial for supporting these expanded roles in primary care. With Rhode Island facing a shortage of primary care providers, enabling pharmacists to bill for their services is essential for creating sustainable models for services like MTM and chronic disease management. These services have been shown to improve patient care and outcomes, reduce readmission rates, and optimize pharmacotherapy.

Furthermore, supporting an expanded role for pharmacist services under a collaborative practice model can directly alleviate the workload burden on primary care providers (PCPs) and is an important step in helping to address Rhode Island's primary care crisis. By expanding ambulatory/primary care teams with pharmacists, we can reduce PCP clinical workload burden and improve patient access by opening up more appointments. Increasing pharmacist involvement is an important step toward supporting primary care, which may help with increasing access for patients and decreasing burden and burnout on Rhode Island's primary care providers. Existing funding sources for pharmacists' services are extremely limited, and failure to pass this bill will severely limit the future growth of this collaborative practice model.

By supporting House Bill H5627, you will be ensuring that pharmacists in Rhode Island can continue to provide these valuable services, contributing to a more sustainable and effective healthcare system. This legislation is a crucial step towards improving patient access to care, reducing healthcare costs, and alleviating the burden on an already strained primary care workforce.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please let me know if I can help support this, answer any questions etc.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kenny Correia, PharmD, BCACP
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist - Ambulatory Care Specialty
Manager of Pharmacy Services
Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, University of Rhode Island