



RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 771
www.health.ri.gov

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 5855 – An Act Relating to Food and Drugs -- Rhode Island Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics Act

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter, with concerns, regarding H 5855, legislation that would amend the types of less expensive generic products which pharmacists may prescribe to include "devices and supplies" and "therapeutically equivalent products" and would require the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Director to provide a list of therapeutically equivalent products. This act would take effect on January 1, 2026.

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) already establishes guidelines for therapeutically equivalent generics for drugs and medical supplies/devices. As a result, it would be duplicative for the Director to develop and maintain the list references in H 5855.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome M. Larkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Michelle McGaw
The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy