



March 11, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island State House
HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov

Re: **Testimony SUPPORTING House Bill 5913**

Dear Chair Craven and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 5913.

Advocates for Better Care in Rhode Island stands for the rights and interests of residents in long-term care in Rhode Island. We strongly support House Bill 5913, which seeks to end the anticompetitive practice of “pay-for-delay” agreements in the pharmaceutical industry.

Pay-for-delay agreements are a blatant attempt by brand-name drug manufacturers to block competition and maintain monopoly pricing on life-saving medications. These agreements artificially inflate prescription drug prices and place an undue financial burden on seniors and other vulnerable populations. As a result, patients receiving long-term care—many of whom are on fixed incomes—face the impossible choice between affording their medications or covering essential expenses like food and housing.

High prescription drug prices have a profound impact on Rhode Island’s seniors and their families. Studies show that one in five older adults must skip doses or forgo filling prescriptions due to cost concerns. This is unacceptable. No one should have to sacrifice their health due to the financial interests of big pharmaceutical companies.

Moreover, Americans continue to pay the highest drug prices in the world—up to three times what consumers in other countries pay for the same medications. This is not due to a lack of innovation but rather to profit-driven practices that prioritize corporate gains over patient well-being.

HB 5913 is a commonsense measure that will promote competition, lower prescription drug prices, and protect consumers. I respectfully urge this committee to advance HB 5913 and stand with Rhode Island’s older adults in the fight for affordable medication.

Thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gerard,
ABC-RI