

Roberta DiMezza

From: Bobbie Hunger <bobbie.hunger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 5:06 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Re: Strong Support for H8329 – Terminal Patients; Right to Try Act

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May 12, 2026

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for H8329, the 'Terminal Patients' Right to Try Act, which builds upon and expands the previously passed Neil Fachon 'Terminally Ill Patients' Right to Try Act (H7266).

This legislation is a critical step forward in ensuring that terminally ill patients in Rhode Island have timely access to investigational treatments, diagnostics, and devices that could save or extend their lives.

The current system fails patients in three devastating ways:

1. It moves too slowly. Drugs, biologics, and devices that have passed Phase 1 trials—proven safe for human use—remain inaccessible for years, even decades, while patients die waiting.
2. It prioritizes caution over urgency. For terminally ill patients, time is survival. Yet they face bureaucratic delays, financial burdens, and unnecessary travel that cost them precious time.
3. It denies access to cutting-edge diagnostics. Thousands of patients are failed by current diagnostics with high false-negative rates, leading to preventable deaths.

H-8329 addresses these failures with life-saving provisions, including:

- Access to investigational treatments (drugs, biologics, and devices) that have passed Phase 1 trials but are not yet FDA-approved.
- Telehealth prescreening, allowing patients to be evaluated remotely,

regardless of their location.

- Remote signing of informed consent forms, removing the burden of travel for critically ill patients.
- Innovative medical devices for diagnostic use, enabling earlier detection and personalized treatment plans.
- Immunity protections for manufacturers, healthcare providers, and facilities acting in good faith, encouraging participation without fear of litigation.

This bill also includes strong safeguards to protect patients, such as full informed consent, transparency from providers, and state oversight to ensure ethical conduct.

Why This Matters Now: New Hampshire has already set a precedent with its Right to Try Act (HB701), and Rhode Island has the opportunity to become the second state in the nation to adopt these critical provisions.

Moreover, Rhode Island would be the first state to explicitly include innovative medical devices for diagnostic purposes, enabling the collection of data to improve future outcomes and quality of life for patients. For terminally ill patients, time is not a luxury—it is survival. This bill is about compassion, autonomy, and hope. It is about giving patients the right to make their own decisions and access treatments that could change the course of their illness.

I urge you to support H8329 and give hope to those fighting for every extra day with their loved ones. Let this bill be a beacon of hope for all patients who have lost hope.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,