

29 January 2026

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

RE: H7075, H7188

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of House Bill No. 7075 and House Bill No. 7188, both of which aim to reduce the financial burden of diabetes supplies for Rhode Island residents.

My name is Camille Charbonneau, and I am a clinical pharmacist specializing in diabetes care in the community setting. Each day, I work directly with patients who are managing diabetes and its complications. I see firsthand how the rising cost of essential supplies—such as glucose monitors, test strips, insulin delivery devices, and continuous glucose monitoring systems—creates significant barriers to effective care. Too often, patients are forced to ration supplies, delay treatment, or forgo recommended therapies altogether due to cost.

These products are not optional—they are essential for safe and effective diabetes management. Reliable access to diabetes supplies is critical for adherence to treatment plans. When patients consistently monitor their glucose levels and administer medications as prescribed, we see improved glycemic control, fewer acute complications, and reduced hospitalization rates. In turn, this leads to lower overall healthcare and medical costs by preventing avoidable emergency visits and long-term complications such as heart disease, kidney failure, vision loss, and amputations. When patients cannot access affordable diabetes supplies, their health outcomes suffer, and the financial strain on both families and the healthcare system increases.

House Bill No. 7075, also known as the Matt Federico Diabetic Safety Act, holds personal significance for me, as it is named in honor of a dear friend and colleague who passed away in July of 2025 from complications of type 1 diabetes. His loss is a heartbreakingly reminder of how serious this disease is and how vital access to proper care and supplies can be. Ensuring that health plans will fully cover at least one type of glucagon that does not require reconstitution will guarantee that life-saving medication is accessible and available to those who require immediate care. This legislation represents not only a policy improvement, but a meaningful step toward preventing similar tragedies in the future.

Together, House Bill No. 7075 and House Bill No. 7188 represent impactful measures to improve access to life-sustaining diabetes supplies. By lowering out-of-pocket costs, these bills empower patients to follow evidence-based treatment plans, engage more fully in their care, and achieve better health outcomes. From a clinical perspective, improved affordability directly translates into better adherence, reduced hospitalizations, and long-term cost savings for our healthcare system.

As a healthcare professional who works closely with Rhode Islanders living with diabetes, I strongly believe these measures will have a positive and lasting impact on public health across our state. I respectfully urge you to support and advance House Bill No. 7075 and House Bill No. 7188.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to the health of Rhode Island residents.

Sincerely,

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