

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Susan Donovan Chair, House Committee on Health & Human Services

State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill No. 7075 THE MATTHEW FEDERICO DIABETIC SAFETY ACT

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

My name is Alexa Donovan. I am a Clinical Pharmacist and Certified Diabetes Educator, recognized both in the state of Rhode Island and nationally. I am also Board Certified in Advanced Diabetes Management and have served as a member of the Camp Surefire Medical Staff for the past eleven years.

I am writing in support of House Bill No. 7075, the Matthew Federico Diabetic Safety Act. A companion bill has also been introduced in the Senate.

In my role as a Clinical Pharmacist practicing in the outpatient ambulatory care setting, I work daily with patients living with diabetes. Many of these individuals have Type 1 Diabetes, for whom insulin is a medical necessity, or Type 2 Diabetes requiring multiple daily insulin injections. The majority of patients with Type 1 Diabetes, and approximately 50 percent of patients with Type 2 Diabetes, experience hypoglycemia and live with significant fear of these episodes. Severe hypoglycemia can result in seizures, coma, or death. Research demonstrates that the risk of death is three times higher in patients with diabetes who have experienced a severe hypoglycemic episode compared to those who have experienced no or only mild hypoglycemia.

It is essential that patients at risk for hypoglycemia, as well as their family members and caregivers, have timely access to life-saving glucagon therapies, including auto-injectors, nasal sprays, or other ready-to-use formulations that do not require reconstitution. Current diabetes care guidelines recommend that all patients at risk for hypoglycemia have an active glucagon prescription. Furthermore, the Endocrine Society specifically recommends ready-to-use glucagon products over those requiring reconstitution, as severe hypoglycemia is unpredictable and requires immediate intervention.

Both as a healthcare provider and as someone with close personal connections to individuals living with diabetes, I have been present in situations where glucagon administration was necessary and lifesaving. I have also been in circumstances where I was prepared to administer glucagon during a hypoglycemic emergency. Having access to glucagon provides caregivers with critical reassurance and the ability to act quickly when seconds matter.

The passage of this bill is critically important. It will reduce preventable hospitalizations, lower overall healthcare costs, provide peace of mind for patients and caregivers, and, most importantly, save lives.

Thank you for reading,

Alexa Donovan, PharmD, BC-ADM, CDCES, CDOE, CVDOE
Care New England – Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist
Camp Surefire Medical Staff

Signature and include your name, credentials, and city/state under your name

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