

27 January 2026

The Honorable Susan Donovan Chair, House Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
RE: SUPPORT – H7075

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Audrey Whalen, and I am a clinical pharmacist specialist with Brown University Health Endocrinology. I am writing in strong support of Bill H7075, Matt Federico Diabetic Safety Act, which would provide patients with two glucagon devices per year at no cost.

In my role as a pharmacist in an endocrinology clinic, I have seen firsthand the critical importance of access to glucagon for patients living with diabetes. Glucagon is a lifesaving medication—no different from an EpiPen or naloxone—yet many patients do not have adequate access to it. Severe hypoglycemia is an unfortunate and common complication of insulin use and can lead to serious adverse outcomes, increased stress for patients and caregivers, and higher overall healthcare costs.

Ensuring that patients have an adequate and affordable supply of glucagon can significantly reduce these risks, improve clinical outcomes, and lessen both emotional and financial strain. The American Diabetes Association recommends that anyone prescribed insulin also have glucagon available to treat hypoglycemia. Despite this guidance, cost remains a major barrier, leaving many patients unprotected in emergency situations.

For these reasons, I urge you to support Bill H7075, Matt Federico Diabetic Safety Act as an important step toward providing safer, more equitable, and lifesaving care for people living with diabetes in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Audrey Whalen, PharmD, BCACP, CDOE, CVDOE
Providence, RI