

28 January 2026

[submitted electronically via: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov]

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 Avery Lee, and I am a clinical pharmacist specializing in diabetes management at Brown University Health Primary Care. 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.

Glucagon is a life-saving emergency treatment for severe hypoglycemia. In my clinical practice, I routinely counsel patients who are at real risk for dangerously low blood glucose levels, including individuals with type 1 diabetes, insulin-dependent type 2 diabetes, older adults, and those with hypoglycemia unawareness. When severe hypoglycemia occurs, patients are often unable to self-treat, and glucagon may be the only intervention that can prevent seizures, loss of consciousness, or death while awaiting emergency medical services.

Despite its critical role, access to glucagon remains inconsistent. High out-of-pocket costs, insurance barriers, and lack of coverage result in many patients going without this essential medication. I have personally encountered patients who decline it altogether due to cost—placing them at unnecessary risk. This is particularly troubling given that severe hypoglycemia can lead to emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and long-term complications that are far more costly to both patients and the healthcare system.

As a healthcare professional entrusted with optimizing medication therapy and patient safety, I strongly urge you to support Bill H7075, Matt Federico Diabetic Safety Act. Access to life-saving emergency medications should not depend on a patient's ability to pay. Rhode Island can lead by example and demonstrate a commitment to protecting its residents living with diabetes.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to the health of our community.

Sincerely,
Dr. Avery Lee, PharmD, CDOE
Bristol, RI