

28 January 2026

[submitted electronically via: [HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto: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- Matt Federico Diabetic Safety Act- Glucagon- AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

My name is Elyse Gagne, and I have been a practicing pharmacist in Rhode Island for the past 15 years, working in both the retail and ambulatory care settings. I am writing to express my strong support for H 7075 and its companion bill introduced in the Senate.

I support this legislation because glucagon is a lifesaving medication for people living with Type 1 diabetes. Patients with long-standing diabetes can develop hypoglycemia unawareness, a condition in which the body no longer exhibits the typical warning signs of low blood sugar. As a result, blood glucose levels can fall dangerously low without notice, potentially leading to loss of consciousness. In these situations, the only way to prevent serious or irreparable harm, including death, while awaiting emergency medical services is the administration of glucagon.

Because of its critical role in preventing severe hypoglycemia, the American Diabetes Association recommends that all patients with Type 1 diabetes carry glucagon at all times and that caregivers, family members, and friends know where it is kept and how to administer it. These recommendations are clearly outlined in the ADA Standards of Care ([https://diabetesjournals.org/care/issue/49/Supplement\\_1](https://diabetesjournals.org/care/issue/49/Supplement_1)).

Unfortunately, insurance barriers and the high cost of glucagon often prevent patients from accessing this lifesaving medication. I have seen firsthand how the administrative burden of prior authorizations, that are required by insurance companies, can lead to delays in care and, in some cases, force patients to rely on emergency medical services unnecessarily. These barriers place patients at risk and increase overall healthcare costs.

Cost should never be the reason a patient is unable to access a lifesaving medication that is clearly indicated by established clinical guidelines. H.R. 7075 and its Senate companion bill

represent an important step toward ensuring timely and equitable access to glucagon for patients who depend on it for survival.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,  
Elyse Gagne, PharmD, BCACP, CDOE, CVDOE  
Cranston, Rhode Island