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

RE: H7075

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

My name is Greg Carson. I was a longtime resident of Rhode Island who is raising a child who has lived with type one diabetes for twelve years. Although I am now a Massachusetts resident, my wife and I both work in Rhode Island, our children both attend an independent school in Rhode Island, and our youngest daughter receives all her diabetes related care in Rhode Island. I'm deeply connected to the type one diabetes community in Rhode Island and proudly serve on the Board of Directors for Camp Surefire, which is a leading resource in Rhode Island for children who live with type one diabetes and their families. Simply put, I consider myself fortunate to know many of the courageous Rhode Islanders who live with type one diabetes.

I'm writing to ask that you support House Bill No. 7075, The Matthew Federico Diabetic Safety Act. Managing type one diabetes is a constant battle that consumes you every single day and night. Proper management can include eating at all times of day and night, administering insulin at any time of day or night, and tracking glucose readings and trends just to keep your glucose within a healthy range. It's exhausting, and it always carries the risk of life threatening levels of low glucose, called hypoglycemia, even when managed well. This bill would require health plans with prescription drug coverage to provide glucagon, or other related medications, free of any copays or deductibles. Rhode Islanders' access to these life saving medications should not depend upon whether they can afford them. Furthermore, providing these medications to those who need them allows those living with type diabetes to avoid expensive emergency visits to the hospital.

Thank you for your time and for your advocacy of the thousands of children and adults living in Rhode Island who battle type one diabetes each and every day.

Greg Carson



Camp Surefire Board of Directors