

5 March 2025

[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: (H7075)– AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

My name is Matthew Leary, and I am a clinical pharmacist specialist at Brown University Health – Rhode Island Hospital, Adult ENDOCRINOLOGY Services.

I strongly support House Bill **H7075**, also known as *The Matthew Federico Diabetic Safety Act*.

This legislation, *along with the companion bill introduced in the Senate*, would require health insurance plans that provide prescription coverage in Rhode Island to cover at least one type of glucagon auto-injector, nasal spray, or other formulation that does not require reconstitution to treat hypoglycemia. Crucially, it would ensure that patients receive **at least two glucagon devices per plan year without copayments or deductibles**.

Hypoglycemia — dangerously low blood glucose — is a common, unpredictable, and potentially life-threatening complication for people living with diabetes. Prompt access to glucagon can be lifesaving, especially in situations where the patient is unconscious, unable to take oral sugar, or alone when an episode occurs. Ensuring that glucagon is covered without financial barriers will **remove a significant cost burden for patients and caregivers**, improving safety and peace of mind for thousands of Rhode Islanders managing diabetes every day.

By mandating coverage without copays or deductibles, H7075 promotes **health equity**, prevents unnecessary emergency department visits, and aligns with best practices in chronic disease management. Making glucagon accessible and affordable through standard insurance plans represents a meaningful step toward better health outcomes and real support for families affected by diabetes across our state.

I respectfully urge the House Health & Human Services Committee and my fellow Representatives to advance and pass H7075 to protect and empower Rhode Islanders living with diabetes.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this extremely important matter.

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