

January 29, 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: H 7075 Relating to insurance – accident and sickness insurance policies – The Matthew Federico Diabetic Safety Act

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of Rhode Island House Bill 7075, The Matthew Federico Diabetic Safety Act, and its Senate companion. I spent 12 years of my pharmacy career as a diabetes educator, and I have seen firsthand how quickly severe low blood sugar can become life-threatening. Glucagon is a true rescue medication: when a person is unconscious or cannot safely swallow, timely glucagon administration can prevent seizure, brain injury, and death. Access should never depend on whether a family can afford it.

H 7075 recognizes the reality of emergencies and the practical needs of people living with diabetes by requiring coverage for at least one ready-to-use glucagon product (auto-injector, nasal spray, or a formulation not requiring reconstitution) and ensuring patients can obtain two devices per plan year without cost-sharing. That detail matters. Two devices often means one for home and one for school, work, or childcare. For minors, in particular, two devices can be the difference between being protected in every setting and being unacceptably vulnerable for part of the day.

This bill is also sound stewardship of healthcare resources. When glucagon is unavailable because of cost or coverage barriers, severe low blood sugar is more likely to escalate into 911 calls, emergency department visits, and ICU admissions that are traumatic for patients and families and far more expensive for the healthcare system than providing appropriate rescue medication up front. By lowering barriers to access, H 7075 supports safer diabetes

management, reduces avoidable complications, and helps prevent preventable high-cost utilization.

It is unfortunate that legislation is needed to ensure access to life-saving therapy, but it is necessary. I respectfully urge you to advance and support H 7075 so that Rhode Islanders with diabetes can have reliable, affordable, ready-to-use glucagon where and when they need it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to the health and safety of Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Caetano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle L. Caetano, PharmD
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Cumberland, RI 02864