

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: SUPPORT - H7075 - Matt Federico Diabetic Safety Act - Glucagon

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the Committee,

My name is Todd Brothers, PharmD, BCCCP, BCPS, and I am a Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy, where I teach and mentor student pharmacists in acute care and ambulatory clinical practice. In addition to my academic role, I practice in hospital-based settings and work closely with patients and healthcare teams managing complex chronic diseases, including diabetes.

I am writing in strong support of House Bill H7075, the Matt Federico Diabetic Safety Act, and its companion legislation introduced in the Rhode Island Senate. Together, these bills represent an important and evidence-based step toward improving access to glucagon, a life-saving medication used to treat severe hypoglycemia.

From both a clinical and public health perspective, timely access to glucagon is essential. Severe hypoglycemia is a medical emergency that can result in seizures, loss of consciousness, emergency department visits, and hospital admissions if not treated promptly. Expanding access to glucagon particularly in community and non-medical settings supports rapid intervention, reduces preventable emergency care utilization, and improves overall patient safety.

As a pharmacist and educator, I regularly emphasize the importance of medication adherence, caregiver preparedness, and harm prevention in chronic disease management. Modern glucagon formulations are safer, easier to administer, and more practical for use by caregivers, teachers, coaches, and bystanders. Policies that remove barriers to access and use directly align with best practices in diabetes care and help keep patients out of the hospital while reducing downstream healthcare costs.

Importantly, these bills also reflect a proactive approach to patient-centered care, recognizing that emergencies do not only occur in clinical settings and that empowering communities to respond appropriately can save lives.

Thank you for your leadership and for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H7075 and its Senate companion bill. I respectfully urge the Committee to advance this legislation and continue Rhode Island's commitment to improving safety and outcomes for individuals living with diabetes.

Sincerely,

Todd Brothers

Todd Brothers, Pharm D, BCCCP, BCPS
Clinical Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Research
College of Pharmacy, University of Rhode Island