

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: H7424– AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --
COLLABORATIVE PHARMACY PRACTICE

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

My name is Allison Zuern, PharmD and I am a pharmacist that has been practicing under a collaborative practice agreement for over five years in the state of Rhode Island. I am **in strong support of bill H7424**. I have seen the positive impact that these collaborative practice agreements have had on patient care. Prior to our CPA at my current practice, it was taking some patients upwards of a year to achieve their uric acid targets due to availability of provider appointments and patient adherence. With the addition of these CPAs, we can get our patients to goal in approximately 3 months in many cases, due to increased patient adherence to medications and lifestyle changes. This significantly correlates to better overall health of our patients due to decreased utilization of acute medications for flares (which have many long-term side effects, increased cost of care, and decreased quality of life). Currently, the CPA is reviewed and agreed upon by the rheumatologists and pharmacists practicing at our practice taking care of the patients at the practice. This relationship is based on clinical expertise and professional relationship between the pharmacists and rheumatologists. In rheumatology, new medications come to market on a routine basis, guidelines are updated frequently, and FDA recommendations regarding black box warning and contraindications are released. There is a need to be able to update these collaborative practice agreements in a reasonable timeframe based on collaboration with our providers to continue allowing the highest level of care to the patients of Rhode Island.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Allison Zuern, PharmD
Cranston, RI