

3 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: **H7534 – AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --
PHARMACIES - SUPPORT FOR BILL H7534 TOBACCO CESSATION
PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY**

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

My name is Brianna Kimball, PharmD, RPh, BCACP, and I am a clinical pharmacist licensed and practicing in the state of Rhode Island. I am writing in strong **support of bill H7534**, which would allow for pharmacist **tobacco cessation prescriptive authority**.

H7534 would allow pharmacists to initiate FDA-approved tobacco cessation drug therapies, resulting in expanded access to patients and improvement in health outcomes. Approximately 90% of the population is within 5 miles of a pharmacy, therefore, pharmacists are well-positioned to easily provide high-quality patient care services for tobacco cessation. It is well-known that complete tobacco cessation can require more than 10-15 quit attempts, with success being closely correlated to the number of touchpoints or follow-ups patients receive throughout these attempts. Increased accessibility to tobacco cessation services provided by pharmacists across all healthcare settings can help support patients on their journey to successfully achieving tobacco cessation, as well as complement the support with established providers and other members of the interdisciplinary team.

It is well-established that tobacco use can increase a person's risk for developing serious health conditions, including lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), coronary artery disease, stroke, as well as increase overall mortality.

As a clinical pharmacist embedded in different primary care practices, I collaborate directly with patients and members of the interdisciplinary care team to provide high-quality tobacco cessation services. I follow the patients closely to provide tobacco cessation screening, motivational counseling, screen and monitor for drug-drug interactions, initiate, and adjust tobacco cessation therapies under a collaborative practice agreement, provide medication education and ongoing support to patients. I am fortunate to see the positive impact on patients, but I realize I am in a unique situation, as there is inequity in accessibility to such services.

If passed, the Board of Pharmacy Rules would state that a qualified pharmacist may prescribe tobacco cessation medications and provide medication counseling on tobacco cessation. Standard screening can occur easily and in less than 15-30 minutes, which can easily be incorporated into the pharmacist's workflow. Furthermore, pharmacists are known to improve quality patient care, and cost-savings.

Thank you for your consideration,
Brianna Kimball, PharmD, BCACP, CDOE
East Providence, RI