



Rhode Island Pharmacists Association

1643 Warwick Avenue, PMB 113, Warwick, RI 02889
Ph (401) 684-1874 Fax (888) 697-4887 www.ripharmacists.org

March 2, 2026

[submitted electronically via: HouseHealthHumanServices@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Susan Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7534 (Tanzi) – Pharmacists & Tobacco Cessation Therapies – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I am submitting this letter to state my complete support of H7534 authorizing pharmacists to prescribe and dispense tobacco cessation therapy medications.

I have been a community pharmacist for 26 years and have witnessed the education and support needed by patients attempting to quit smoking. Pharmacists are often the first healthcare provider to assess a patient's readiness to quit and provide targeted, patient-centered education to support a successful quit attempt. Further, our access may easily identify high risk patients, reduce attributed costs, concierge referral to additional quit resources and provide access during off-hours for alternate services. Additionally, it is well known that complete tobacco cessation can require in excess of 10-15 quit attempts and success is strongly correlated to how many touchpoints patients receive through their attempts, often weekly for several months. This increase in access via pharmacists in all healthcare settings can support patients who require frequent follow-up and complement those with established providers.

H7534 would align with numerous states that have authorized pharmacists to prescribe tobacco cessation aids. Pharmacists are the medications experts, accessible in a 24/7 fashion, yielding improved public health and healthy equity throughout our Rhode Island communities.

Sincerely,

Ginger Lemay, PharmD, CDOE, CVDOE
Clinical Professor
PGY1 Community-Based Residency Program Director
University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy
[URI & Walgreens PGY1 Community-Based Residency Program](#)

Past President, Rhode Island Pharmacists Association, 2022-2023

Practice Sites:

Walgreens Pharmacy, Community Pharmacist
Visiting Nurse Home & Hospice, Transition of Care Pharmacist