

February 24, 2026

[submitted electronically via: househealthandhumanservices@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Chair Susan Donovan, House Committee on Health & Human Services

State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services:

I am writing to express my strong support for H 7534, which would grant pharmacists the authority to prescribe FDA-approved tobacco cessation therapies.

Considering Rhode Island's primary care access crisis, it is imperative that we remove barriers to preventative care. Many individuals seeking to quit tobacco should not need to wait months for a primary care appointment to obtain a prescription. This legislation allows qualified patients to receive immediate, evidence-based intervention directly from a trained pharmacist.

By expanding prescriptive authority to pharmacists, we can utilize a highly skilled workforce to improve public health outcomes at a time when traditional primary care resources are limited. I respectfully request your support for this act.

Sincerely,

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

Michelle Caetano, PharmD

Cumberland, RI