



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Chairperson Susan Donovan
House Health & Human Services Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Support – H 7534

March 3, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society, we support H 7534, which authorizes appropriately trained pharmacists to prescribe and dispense FDA-approved tobacco cessation therapies under defined clinical standards H7534.

RIMS supports targeted expansions of scope when they improve timely access to important treatments while preserving continuity of care. This bill accomplishes both goals.

Tobacco cessation is time-sensitive. When a patient is ready to quit, delays in securing a primary care appointment can mean a lost opportunity. Allowing trained pharmacists to initiate evidence-based cessation therapy improves immediate access at a critical moment.

The legislation includes important safeguards. Pharmacists must complete board-approved education, follow updated clinical guidelines, refer high-risk patients when appropriate, and notify the patient's primary care provider within five business days H7534. These requirements support coordination and protect continuity of care.

Given Rhode Island's ongoing primary care capacity challenges, carefully structured scope expansion can responsibly improve access while maintaining accountability.

For these reasons, RIMS respectfully urges passage of H 7534.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nadine Himelfarb, MD
President
Rhode Island Medical Society