

Sarah Riedo, MD
1180 Hope St
Bristol, RI 02809

3/3/2026

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

Re: H7536 and H7424 – An Act Relating to Insurance – Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies

Submitted electronically via: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

Dear Chair Donovan and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

As a practicing physician in Rhode Island, I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 7424** and **House Bill 7536**. Every day, my colleagues and I see the direct impact of the state's provider shortage: longer wait times, rising patient acuity, and a healthcare system stretched to its breaking point. These bills represent a critical opportunity to modernize our care delivery model by fully integrating clinical pharmacists into the patient care team.

H 7424: Collaborative Practice as a Force Multiplier for Physicians In the current landscape, physicians are often the sole point of contact for complex medication management, which can lead to bottlenecks in care. H 7424 modernizes collaborative practice agreements, allowing pharmacists to take a more active role in managing drug therapies. For my patients with chronic diseases like hypertension or diabetes, having a pharmacist empowered to adjust medications between office visits ensures they stay within their clinical targets. This does not replace the physician; rather, it acts as a force multiplier, allowing me to focus on diagnosis and acute care while knowing my patients are receiving expert chronic care management in tandem.

H 7536: Stabilizing the Healthcare Infrastructure We cannot expect our healthcare infrastructure to expand without a sustainable financial foundation. H 7536 is vital because it ensures that the clinical services pharmacists provide are appropriately reimbursed. Currently, many practices and health systems are hesitant to hire or utilize clinical pharmacists to their full potential because there is no clear path for reimbursement for their professional services. By mandating fair reimbursement, this bill allows physicians to build robust, multidisciplinary teams that are financially viable, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes and reduced long-term costs for the state.

The Clinical Necessity of Team-Based Care The physician shortage in Rhode Island is a systemic issue that cannot be solved overnight. However, we have an immediate opportunity to improve access by utilizing our available highly trained clinical pharmacists. These professionals are experts in pharmacotherapy and are essential partners in preventing medication errors and reducing ER readmissions. I urge the Committee to support H 7424 and H 7536. By passing these bills, you are supporting Rhode Island's physicians in our mission to provide timely, safe, and effective care to every patient in our state.

Regards,

Sarah Riedo, MD