

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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March 3, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2026 — H 7923 (Dept. of Health) - An Act Relating to Food and Drugs – Uniform Controlled Substances Act

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter of support for H 7923 which would revise sections of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (UCSA) to remove specific dosage requirements and revise the UCSA in accordance with current standards of professional practice. This bill also would repeal Chapter 37.5 of Title 5 relating to the treatment of intractable pain.

If enacted, this legislation would ensure that Rhode Island's opioid prescribing requirements will be aligned with national professional standards and evidence-based practices for pain management and the treatment of opioid use disorders to continue the progress the State has achieved in reducing opioid-related overdose deaths.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support to the Department of Health in their collaborative efforts to ensure that opioid medications are prescribed safely and appropriately to those individuals who require them for pain management and to treat opioid use disorders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Leclerc".

Richard Leclerc
Director

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services
Honorable Matthew S. Dawson
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy