

3 March 2026

[submitted electronically via: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov]

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

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7948 – AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE – PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS.

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

My name is Breanna Durkas and I am a sixth year Doctor of Pharmacy student at the University of Rhode Island. I am writing to express my support for H7948, which would cap the amount a covered person is to pay for a covered prescription inhaler, device, or equipment at \$25 per 30 day supply.

According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, about 1 in 12 people in the U.S. have asthma¹. For these individuals, inhalers are not optional; they are life saving medications that help to prevent exacerbations and hospitalizations. Yet for many, the cost of inhalers remains a significant barrier to access of these medications, despite their importance. High costs can lead to rationing doses, delaying refills, or skipping medications altogether. These gaps in access to medications can lead to preventable hospitalizations, increased costs of healthcare, and have significant consequences on daily life such as missed work or school days.

House bill 7948 presents the opportunity to control the financial burden associated with inhalers. This bill will help ensure that cost is not the reason someone goes without the treatment they need. Healthcare is not a luxury, but a right, and no one should be placed in a position where essential treatments are out of reach because of cost. I respectfully request yours and the committee's support and passing of this bill.

1. <https://aafa.org/asthma/asthma-facts/>

Thank you,

Breanna Durkas

PharmD Candidate 2026