



Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

March 24, 2026

TTY: 771
www.health.ri.gov

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

RE: H 7118 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – Pharmaceutical Cost Transparency

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter with concerns regarding H 7118, legislation that would direct the State Board of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), to annually identify up to 15 prescription drugs on which the State spends significant healthcare dollars due to increases in costs.

This list would be provided to the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of the Attorney General would require the drugs' manufacturers to submit relevant information and documentation to justify cost increases. The act would also direct RIDOH to use the same dispensing fee in its reimbursement formula for 340B prescription drugs as it uses to pay for non-340B prescription drugs under the Medicaid program, and to provide information to the General Assembly and the Governor about these programs. The act would also establish an Advisory Commission on out-of-pocket prescription drug costs, which would study these costs and make reports and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. This act would take effect upon passage.

The sole legislative purpose of the State's pharmacies statute is to ensure that every pharmacy and pharmacist practicing in the State meets minimum standards for safe practice (See: webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE5/5-19.1/5-19.1-1.htm). The regulation of pharmaceutical costs, drug reimbursement, and the Federal 340B discount program does not fall under the authority of RIDOH and the State Board of Pharmacy. Additionally, RIDOH and the State Board of Pharmacy do not administer any drug reimbursement programs or 340B discount programs

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome M. Larkin".

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable John J. Lombardi
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy