

Support - S2112

Dear Senator Murray, and Members of the Senate Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill S2112 (2026), which would require health insurance plans in Rhode Island to provide no-cost coverage for glucagon, a critical, life-saving medication used to treat severe hypoglycemia.

Beginning January 1, 2027, S2112 would require any Rhode Island health insurance plan that includes prescription drug coverage to cover at least one pre-mixed or auto-injector glucagon product, ensuring that patients and caregivers have access to modern, easy-to-use emergency treatments. The bill further establishes a meaningful “free” benefit, mandating coverage for two (2) glucagon units per 12-month plan year without any copayment or deductible, a provision that reflects real-world clinical and safety needs.

This requirement appropriately applies across individual and group plans, including nonprofit hospital service corporations, medical service corporations, and health maintenance organizations (HMOs). The bill maintains alignment with federal policy by allowing deductibles to apply only to high-deductible health plans paired with federally qualified health savings accounts (HSAs). Importantly, S2112 also allows for voluntary early adoption, giving insurers the opportunity to implement this benefit prior to the 2027 effective date.

The clinical rationale for this legislation is clear. Glucagon is a life-saving medication, frequently administered by non-medical professionals—family members, teachers, coworkers, or bystanders—during emergencies involving dangerously low blood sugar. Yet despite its critical role in preventing seizures, loss of consciousness, and death, the high cost of glucagon products remains a significant barrier for many individuals living with diabetes. S2112 addresses this gap through a preventive, patient-centered policy that improves safety, supports caregivers, and helps avert avoidable emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

This legislation is also personally meaningful. S2112 is named in memory of Matt Federico, a pharmacist, colleague, and dedicated professional whose legacy continues to impact patient care and public safety. This bill means a great deal to his family and particularly to his brother, Chris Federico, who is a dear friend and has worked tirelessly to honor Matt’s commitment to protecting patients and improving access to essential, life-saving medications. Recognizing Matt’s legacy through this legislation underscores both the human impact and the urgency of ensuring access to glucagon for those who need it most.

I respectfully urge your support for Senate Bill S2112 and thank you for your leadership in advancing policies that protect the health, dignity, and safety of Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Kennedy, PharmD