



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Chairperson Melissa Murray
Senate Health & Human Services Committee
Rhode Island Senate
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Support – S 2468

April 16, 2026

Chair Murray and Members of the Committee:

The Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) strongly supports S2468, which takes important steps to improve utilization review practices and place appropriate limits on step therapy protocols.

Physicians across Rhode Island are increasingly burdened by administrative requirements that delay care and interfere with clinical decision-making. Step therapy is one of the most significant examples. While intended as a cost-control tool, it too often results in patients being required to try and fail treatments that are not clinically appropriate before accessing the care their physician has already determined is necessary.

This bill establishes a clear and clinically grounded framework for step therapy exceptions. It ensures that patients can access appropriate treatment without delay when step therapy is contraindicated, ineffective, or likely to disrupt a stable course of care.

Equally important, S2468 creates guardrails that will make a meaningful difference in practice, including:

- Timely response requirements, with approvals presumed if deadlines are not met
- Limitations on the number and duration of required steps
- Continuity of care protections during review and appeals
- Exemptions for serious conditions such as cancer, mental illness, and rare diseases

These provisions reflect what physicians experience every day: delays in care driven not by clinical complexity, but by administrative processes that are misaligned with patient needs.

This legislation also acknowledges the broader issue of administrative burden in healthcare. Rhode Island is in the midst of a growing access crisis affecting both primary care and specialty care. Reducing unnecessary barriers to treatment is one of the most immediate and effective steps the state can take to improve access for patients and support the physicians who care for them.

S2468 represents a thoughtful and balanced approach. It preserves the role of utilization management while ensuring that it does not come at the expense of timely, appropriate patient care.

We respectfully urge passage of this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nadine Himelfarb, MD
President