

Dear Chair Murray, and Members of Senate HHS:

My name is Eric Pohl. I am a 4th year Pharmacy student at the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy. I currently work in the community pharmacy setting at CVS in Charlestown, Rhode Island. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2876.

The greatest joy of working in a pharmacy is the ability to be an accessible outlet to healthcare for the community, and to educate patients on their medications and the importance of adherence. Conversely, one of the most difficult parts of working in pharmacy is situations where patients are unable to access their medication due to financial barriers. I have personally seen patients shocked by the price of their inhaler, or the amount of the deductible that was applied to their inhaler. These situations often lead to the patient going without the medication, and thus their condition goes uncontrolled.

S2876 aims to cap the cost that insured patients pay on prescription inhalers to \$25 for a thirty day supply. This cap on cost would drastically increase accessibility to prescription inhalers, which in turn would improve patient adherence and reduce preventable negative health outcomes that burden the healthcare system.

S2876 provides patients with the opportunity to receive their medication without having to make difficult and potentially harmful decisions based on financial restraints, allowing them to properly manage their condition. Thank you.

Eric Pohl,
Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate
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