

14 April 2025

[submitted electronically via: slegislation@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Melissa Murray Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

RI State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

RE: S2876 – RELATING TO INSURANCE – PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS

Dear Chair Murray, and Members of Senate HHS Committee:

My name is Joseph Honig. I am currently a practicing pharmacist in the state of Rhode Island and President of the RI Pharmacists Association. **I am writing for the full support of S2876 – RELATING TO INSURANCE – PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS as a practicing pharmacist and on behalf of the RI Pharmacist Organization.**

This bill would improve access to life saving medications for patients with respiratory conditions. Inhalers are often cost prohibitive and patients at the community pharmacy must often make the difficult decision to purchase an inhaler to breathe or purchase other daily life expenses. Capping the price of inhalers at \$25 would greatly improve access to life saving medications and improve patient outcomes.

I strongly encourage you to support this bill as access to inhalers would greatly reduce emergency department and urgent care utilization while simultaneously improving patient outcomes and their quality of life.

Thank you for your time.

Joseph Honig, PharmD, RPh, CDOE, AE-C

President, RI Pharmacist's Association

East Greenwich, RI