



April 7, 2026

The Honorable Melissa A. Murray
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Chairperson Murray and honorable members of the Rhode Island Senate Health and Human Services Committee, Thundermist Health Center supports S 2889 which would eliminate testosterone from Rhode Island's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

Rhode Island's PDMP exists under the federal framework that was first laid out in 1970 to regulate drugs which have legitimate medical uses, but also pose risk of harm, primarily overdose and addiction. Testosterone does not pose equivalent health risks as other controlled substances and was not listed as a controlled substance until 20 years after the federal schedule was created. While we support efforts to prevent misuse of medications, there is a lack of evidence that including testosterone in PDMP achieves this purpose and it creates a barrier to necessary healthcare for some populations.

A 2024 report published by the Journal of American Medicine highlighted that testosterone prescription information was accessible to law enforcement without basic safeguards in nearly half of US states. Further, many states, including Rhode Island, share PDMP data across state lines. These conditions are creating significant alarm among transgender people and their healthcare providers as politicized restrictions on access to necessary healthcare proliferate outside Rhode Island, accompanied by extra-legal attempts to access sensitive health information in furtherance of these restrictions. Healthcare providers are worried that this data repository could easily be used to target them for providing standard of care medicine to their patients. Transgender people are worried that their personally identifiable healthcare information could be used to deny access to their essential healthcare.

Restricting access to medically necessary healthcare that is safe and effective does not advance PDMP's purpose and may have the unintended consequence of pushing some individuals towards less safe methods to obtain the medication outside monitored healthcare. Controlled substance laws and regulations already recognize that different medications pose different levels of risk and do not require the same level of monitoring. The lower risk profile in combination with the potential for misuse of prescription monitoring program information has already led other states to remove testosterone from state PMPs.

We thank Chairperson LaMountain and Senator Vargas for seeking a solution to this problem. We urge this committee to support S 2889 to exempt testosterone from Rhode Island PDMP or an amendment that would ensure the existing program is not detrimental to populations like transgender people that rely on testosterone for medically necessary healthcare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles T. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct "T" in the middle.

Chuck Jones

President and CEO