



March 20, 2025

The Honorable Melissa A. Murray
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
via email: SLegislation@rilegislature.gov

Re: S0114- An Act Relating To Businesses And Professions -- Defending Affordable Prescription Drug Costs Act

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for S0114 which seeks to defend the 340B Drug Pricing Program from unjust restrictions imposed by major pharmaceutical manufacturers. These restrictions have severely limited access to 340B medications, undermining the program's core purpose of supporting safety-net healthcare providers.

Over the past four years, these manufacturer-imposed limitations have had a devastating impact on The Providence Community Health Centers, Inc., with increasingly restrictive policies, and no resolution in sight. As a result, we have incurred over \$9 million in financial losses from the 340B program, which has been a contributing factor in forcing us to reduce staff. Another effect of these restrictions has been the reduction of free medication access for our most at-risk patients, a consequence that directly affects the health and well-being of our community. If these restrictions persist, we will be left with no choice but to make further painful reductions to both staffing and critical services.

The 340B program in Rhode Island has consistently operated as intended, allowing Community Health Centers to maximize limited resources to provide essential care to our most vulnerable populations- all without requiring any state or federal funding.

It is imperative that we take action to protect this program and join the nine other states that have enacted similar laws to safeguard their Community Health Centers from these unjust restrictions.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I appreciate your leadership and commitment to protecting healthcare access and urge your support for S0114 to ensure the continued viability of the 340B program.

Sincerely,

Merrill Thomas
President & CEO