



March 19, 2025

The Honorable Melissa A. Murray  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Via: [SLegislation@rilegislature.gov](mailto: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:

Passage of **S0114** is extremely important to WellOne, which is one of Rhode Island's eight community health centers. Our organization provides services to more than 17,000 Rhode Islanders regardless of ability to pay.

S0114 will protect the **340B program**, a federal program that provides community health centers with needed revenue. The program requires drug makers to sell drugs to health centers at discounted rates. The program generates revenue that the health centers re-invest in care to their patients. **The program is not funded with any state dollars.**

This legislation addresses a problem that started about 4 years ago, when drug makers began limiting the pharmacies that can participate in the 340B program. Most limit access to 340B drugs to only **one pharmacy address** per health center. The contract pharmacy restrictions have dramatically impacted WellOne's bottom line - **we have lost approximately \$1.7 million annually in program profits since 2022.** S0114 would prohibit drug manufacturers from restricting the pharmacies that can participate in 340B.

Recently, South Dakota joined eight other state that have enacted laws similar to S0114. We need to do the same in Rhode Island. Our community health centers and their patients cannot wait.

And please remember - the Program does not use any state funding. Passage of S0114 will not cost the state one penny! But if S0114 does not pass, community health centers will struggle to meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents of the State.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Peter J. Bancroft, CPA  
President and CEO



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