



Rhode Island Pharmacists Association

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February 29, 2024

[submitted electronically via: HouseHealthHumanServices@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Susan Donovan
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee
2 Rego Avenue
Bristol, RI 02809

RE: H7445 – Pharmacists & Tobacco Cessation Therapies – SUPPORT

Dear Representative Donovan,

My name is Audrey, I am a resident pharmacist working in the community, and I am writing to express my support of H7445 authorizing pharmacists to prescribe and dispense tobacco cessation therapy medications.

As the most accessible healthcare provider, pharmacists are often the first person patients will reach out to for healthcare advice. Specifically, patients often approach pharmacists for advice on how to quit smoking and what products are available to help them quit. Pharmacists are highly educated health care providers that are able to assess a patient's readiness to quit and provide targeted, patient-centered education to support a successful quit attempt. The accessibility of pharmacists can provide unique, flexible and comprehensive care for patients that wish to quit smoking.

As a newly licensed pharmacist I am eager to provide tobacco cessation care for my patients to help them achieve their goals. This expansion of practice would allow myself and pharmacists across the state to better support our patients and expand access to healthcare.

H7445 would allow Rhode Island to join the 14 states that have authorized pharmacists to prescribe tobacco cessation aids. Pharmacists are highly accessible medications experts that have the ability to improve public health and healthy equity throughout our Rhode Island communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Audrey Whalen".

Audrey Whalen, PharmD.
(She/Her/Hers)
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