



# Rhode Island Pharmacists Association

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[submitted electronically via: [HouseHealthHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseHealthHumanServices@rilegislature.gov)]

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

**RE: H7445 (Tanzi) – Pharmacists & Tobacco Cessation Therapies – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

As Immediate Past President of the Rhode Island Pharmacists Association, I am submitting this letter to state my complete support of H7445 authorizing pharmacists to prescribe and dispense tobacco cessation therapy medications.

I have been a community pharmacist for over 23 years and have witnessed the education and support needed by patients attempting to quit smoking. Pharmacists are often the first healthcare provider to assess a patient's readiness to quit and provide targeted, patient-centered education to support a successful quit attempt. Further, our access may easily identify high risk patients, reduce attributed costs, concierge referral to additional quit resources and provide access during off-hours for alternate services. Additionally, it is well known that complete tobacco cessation can require in excess of 10-15 quit attempts and success is strongly correlated to how many touchpoints patients receive through their attempts, often weekly for several months. This increase in access via pharmacists in all healthcare settings can support patients who require frequent follow-up and complement those with established providers.

H7445 would align with numerous states that have authorized pharmacists to prescribe tobacco cessation aids. Pharmacists are the medications experts, accessible in a 24/7 fashion, yielding improved public health and healthy equity throughout our Rhode Island communities.

Sincerely,

**Ginger Lemay, PharmD, CDOE, CVDOE**  
**Clinical Professor**  
PGY1 Community-Based Residency Program Director  
University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy  
[URI & Walgreens PGY1 Community-Based Residency Program](#)

**Immediate Past President, Rhode Island Pharmacists Association**  
[RIPA - Check out everything we are doing for our RI Pharmacy Community!](#)

**Practice Sites:**  
Walgreens Pharmacy, Community Pharmacist  
Visiting Nurse Home & Hospice, Transition of Care Pharmacist