



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Honorable Susan Donovan
Chair
House Health & Human Services Committee
Room 101
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 24H-7445

SUPPORT (FOR)

February 29, 2024

Dear Chairman Donovan,

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) to express our appreciation to Representative Tanzi for introducing H 7445, An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – Pharmacies. This bill, which aims to provide pharmacists with the authority to prescribe tobacco cessation therapies approved by the state board of pharmacy, represents a significant step forward in enhancing access to essential healthcare services for patients.

RIMS recognizes the importance of ensuring timely access to tobacco cessation therapies, and we believe that granting pharmacists the ability to prescribe these therapies will help address existing gaps in care delivery. By expanding services offered by pharmacists, particularly in limited settings, patients will have increased opportunities to receive the support and guidance they need to quit smoking and improve their overall health outcomes.

However, while we are supportive of initiatives that enhance access to care, it is important to note that RIMS has historically advocated against mandating benefits due to the potential impact on affordability. We believe that any legislative measures should carefully consider the balance between expanding access to services and ensuring the sustainability of our healthcare system.

Nevertheless, we remain committed to supporting initiatives that promote patient well-being and improve access to quality healthcare services. Therefore, we strongly urge you and your committee members to consider the merits of H 7445 and to act favorably on this important legislation.

Established in 1812, RIMS has been a steadfast advocate for the medical community in Rhode Island, striving to address the evolving challenges of medical practice and uphold standards of quality patient care.

Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding our testimony, please do not hesitate to contact us. We appreciate your attention to this matter and thank you for considering our perspective.

Sincerely,

Heather Smith, MD, MPH
President