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February 25, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

H 5353 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions -- Pharmacies

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter of support, with amendments, regarding H 5353, legislation that would authorize a pharmacy technician or pharmacy intern to perform technology assisted dispensing process validation for medications prepared for distribution by another pharmacy technician or intern within an institutional pharmacy.

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) would fully support the proposed legislation only for medications being loaded into automated dispensing machines (i.e. Pyxis). RIDOH is not supportive of technology assisted dispensing process validation for patient-specific medications. In addition, RIDOH suggests that language be added to the bill that would hold the pharmacist-in-charge responsible for any medication errors that take place as a result of this operational model rather than solely on the technician's license.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation and would welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsors on the amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerome M. Larkin", followed by the word "for" in a smaller, cursive script.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Julie A. Casimiro
The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy