



Rhode Island General Assembly  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

March 6, 2025

Re: Support for HB 5429

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the Infusion Access Foundation, I am writing to express our firm support for HB 5429 and to encourage you to advance this important legislation during the upcoming House Health and Human Services Committee hearing on 3/6.

The Infusion Access Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to protecting patient access to infusions and injections across all disease areas. Through both grassroots efforts and direct advocacy, we work to expand access to these essential therapies and assist individuals facing significant barriers to care.

Through our work, we have seen how the practices of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) negatively impact patient access to life-saving treatments. These intermediaries, who operate between insurers and drug manufacturers, often prioritize their financial interests over the needs of patients. Their actions raise costs, limit access to treatment options, and push patients away from independent infusion centers, disrupting continuity of care and creating unnecessary barriers to essential therapies.

HB 5429 takes important steps to address these harmful practices by:

- **Ending Unfair Pricing Practices** – Prohibits pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) from using spread pricing, requiring them to adopt pass-through pricing instead, where they charge health plans the same amount they reimburse pharmacies, with only a set administrative fee.
- **Preventing Discriminatory Practices** – Stops PBMs from treating independent (non-affiliated) pharmacies unfairly.
- **Eliminating Delays in Patient Care** – Prohibits PBMs from using prior authorizations, step therapy, and non-medical drug switching that restrict access to necessary treatments.



- Ensuring Discounts Benefit Patients – Mandates that cost savings from drug manufacturer rebates and discounts are passed to enrollees.
- Increasing Transparency & Accountability – Requires PBMs to provide information to health agencies for enforcement and oversight.

These reforms will promote a more patient-centered healthcare system by ensuring fair competition, protecting patient choice, and making prescription drug pricing more transparent and affordable. We urge you to support HB 5429 to help protect patient access to the infusion therapies that are vital to their health and well-being.

Thank you for considering this important issue. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alicia B.", written in a cursive style.

Alicia Barron, LGSW  
Executive Director  
Infusion Access Foundation