



The Nation's Advocacy Voice for In-Office Infusion

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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 National Infusion Center Association (NICA), I am reaching out to express our strong support for HB 5429 and urge you to support this critical legislation during the upcoming House Health and Human Services Committee hearing on 3/6.

NICA is a nonprofit organization formed to support non-hospital, community-based infusion centers caring for patients in need of infused and injectable medications. To improve access to medical benefit drugs that treat complex, rare, and chronic diseases, we work to ensure that patients can access these drugs in high-quality, non-hospital care settings. NICA supports policies that improve drug affordability for beneficiaries, increase price transparency, reduce disparities in quality of care and safety across care settings, and enable care delivery in the highest-quality, lowest-cost setting.

As an organization representing infusion centers across Rhode Island, we have seen firsthand how the practices of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) negatively impact patient access to life-saving infusion therapies. PBMs operate as intermediaries between insurers and drug manufacturers, often prioritizing their own financial interests over patient care. Their actions drive up costs, limit treatment options, and steer patients away from independent infusion centers to PBM-affiliated pharmacies, disrupting continuity of care.

HB 5429 takes necessary 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



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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 help ensure fair competition, protect patient choice, and promote affordability in prescription drug pricing. As an advocate for accessible, high-quality infusion care, we urge you to support HB 5429 to safeguard patient access to essential treatments.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brian Nyquist'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'B' and 'N'.

Brian Nyquist, MPH
President & CEO
National Infusion Center Association