



# Rhode Island Pharmacists Association

1643 Warwick Avenue, PMB 113, Warwick, RI 02889

[www.ripharmacists.org](http://www.ripharmacists.org)

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

The Honorable Susan Donovan Chair, House Committee on Health & Human Services

State House - 82 Smith Street, Room 101

Providence, RI 02903

RE: (McGaw-H5119)– An Act Relating to Businesses & Professions – Pharmacies - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

Rhode Island Pharmacists Association (RIPA) is writing to express **support** for **H5119**, which would improve processes related to “step-therapy”.

The amendments suggested providing necessary improvements and exceptions where trials of medications deemed necessary can delay improvements or worsen a patient’s medical condition. In many circumstances, trial of a medication is not warranted, or is reasonable to be limited:

- Is contraindicated or expected to cause an adverse reaction
- Has been tried and found to be ineffective
- Has not been tried, but is expected to be ineffective
- Will delay or prevent medically necessary care
- Will disrupt the patient’s current effective drug regimen.

Furthermore, we support the enhancements in the proposed electronic submission process as they are important to expedite this process, especially for those which are deemed urgent.

Lastly, having a reporting mechanism on the step-therapy process with OHIC, can help objectively identify improvements or delays with any statutory changes

Thank you,

Jeff Del Ricci Jr. PharmD

President, Rhode Island Pharmacists Association

Chris Federico PharmD, BCACP

Past-President, Rhode Island Pharmacist Association

[info@ripharmacists.org](mailto:info@ripharmacists.org)

*Affiliated with the American Pharmacists Association and the  
National Community Pharmacists Association*