



April 10, 2025

Representative Susan Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services;

As System Director of Pharmacy for CharterCARE Health Partners, which includes Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, I am writing to convey our support for House Bill 5634 which would prohibit payors from discriminating against any 340B entity participating in a drug discount program.

CharterCARE currently is not able to participate in the 340B program given its corporate status as a for-profit entity. However, as most people are aware, our sale from Prospect Medical has received state approval from both the Attorney General and Department of Health and is expected to close shortly. At that time, our new organization, to be named CharterCARE Health of Rhode Island (CCHRI), will be converted to a not-for profit governed by a local management team and local board of directors.

A key aspect of our strategic transition plan, also approved by state leaders and regulators, is dependent on participation in the 340B program. CCHRI has already begun the process to apply for the 340B program, and given the high volume of Medicaid patients CCHRI will serve, we are hopeful to be approved as 340B eligible.

CharterCARE and its heritage hospitals have been providing community-based care for decades to the Providence, North Providence and surrounding communities. Roger Williams is recognized for its cancer program, digestive disease services, and as a teaching facility affiliated with Boston University School of Medicine training generations of providers. Our Lady of Fatima Hospital is a general acute care hospital providing emergency services, critical care, advanced surgery, rehabilitation, and behavioral health. The system also operates a physician multi-specialty practice with more than 60 providers across 20 geographic locations. It also runs the St. Joseph Health Center, a community clinic.

At Roger Williams, our comprehensive cancer care program utilizes some of the newest and emerging therapies to treat our patients. These treatments are novel and do not come without an associated cost. Without the 340B program, access to some of these treatments for outpatient care may be limited for our most vulnerable patient population based on insurance

Representative Susan Donovan

April 10, 2025

Page 2

coverage. We are excited to enroll in the 340B program as we believe it will open doors for our patients and enhance access.

We urge the Committee's support of H-5634 to help the new non-profit CharterCARE Health of Rhode Island continue to provide essential healthcare services to thousands of Rhode Islanders each year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JD', is written over the printed name.

Jeffrey Dandurand, PharmD
System Director of Pharmacy