



April 10, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Via: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

Re: H5634 – AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- DEFENDING
AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS ACT

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

Passage of **H5634** is extremely important to WellOne, which is one of Rhode Island's eight community health centers. Our organization provides services to nearly 18,000 Rhode Islanders regardless of ability to pay.

H5634 will protect the **340B program**, a federal program that provides community health centers with needed revenue. The program requires drug makers to sell drugs to health centers at discounted rates. The program generates revenue that the health centers re-invest in care to their patients. **The program is not funded with any state dollars.**

This legislation addresses a problem that started about 4 years ago, when drug makers began limiting the pharmacies that can participate in the 340B program. Most limit access to 340B drugs to only **one pharmacy address** per health center. The contract pharmacy restrictions have dramatically impacted WellOne's bottom line - **we have lost approximately \$1.7 million annually in program profits since 2022.** H5634 would prohibit drug manufacturers from restricting the pharmacies that can participate in 340B.

Recently, Nebraska joined eleven other states that have enacted laws similar to H5634. We need to do the same in Rhode Island. Our community health centers and their patients cannot wait.

And please remember - the Program does not use any state funding. Passage of H5634 will not cost the state one penny! But if H5634 does not pass, community health centers will struggle to meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents of the State.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Peter J. Bancroft, CPA
President and CEO



WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care
36 Bridge Way, Pascoag RI 02859
WellOneRI.org

TEL 401 567 0800
FAX 401 568 7949
TDD 800 745 5555

Additional locations
308 Callahan Road, N. Kingstown, RI 02852
142A Danielson Pike, Foster, RI 02825
35 Village Plaza Way, N. Scituate, RI 02857

An equal opportunity provider and employer