



RI Department of Health
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TTY: 771
www.health.ri.gov

March 21, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 7446 -- An Act Relating to Food and Drugs -- Uniform Controlled Substances Act

Dear Chair Craven:

Please accept this letter of support for H 7446, legislation that would substitute the current lists of controlled substances in the R.I. General Laws with the current version of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). See [Part 1308 – Schedule of Controlled Substances](#). The proposed legislation was introduced at the request of the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). H 7446 would take effect upon passage.

The list of controlled substances included in the R.I. General Laws quickly becomes outdated when the federal government adds/deletes or changes drugs on its schedule. As a result, the State must continuously update the R.I. General Laws through the submission of new legislation. In some cases, annual legislative updates to the statute are not frequent enough. The current process for updating the State statute is slow and ineffective in addition to posing a barrier to law enforcement officials prosecuting drug cases.

H 7446 would remedy the current situation by referencing the federal register of controlled substances included in CFR Title 21. The federal register is continuously updated, available in an electronic format, and is considered to be the national standard for banned substances in Schedule I and for controlled substances used for legitimate medical purposes in Schedules II through V. The proposed amendment will also provide the public with the most current information on the scheduling of drugs.

It is for these reasons that I encourage the Committees' favorable consideration of H 7446. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Utpala Bandy" followed by "for".

Utpala Bandy, MD, MPH
Interim Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Matthew S. Dawson
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy
