



June 22, 2022

[Submitted electronically via: rep-casey@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Chairman, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: SUPPORT – H8254

Dear Chair Casey:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) supports House Bill (H) 8254, introduced by Representatives Justine Caldwell, and Michelle McGaw, which will protect the safety and effectiveness of patients' medications and maintain their right in choosing where their clinician-administered drugs are dispensed from.

APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States advancing the entire pharmacy profession. APhA represents pharmacists in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, specialty pharmacies, community health centers, physician offices, ambulatory clinics, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and government facilities. Our members strive to improve medication use, advance patient care, and enhance public health. In Rhode Island, APhA represents pharmacists and students that practice in numerous settings and provide care to many of your constituents. As the voice of pharmacy, APhA leads the profession and equips members for their role as the medication expert in team-based, patient-centered care. APhA inspires, innovates, and creates opportunities for members and pharmacists worldwide to optimize medication use and health for all.

APhA opposes mandated procurement strategies that restrict patients' and providers' ability to choose treatment options and that compromise patient safety and quality of care.¹ This is a wide-spread problem affecting 95% of health-systems.² These mandates, which are placed by pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and health plans, can jeopardize the supply chain by forcing patients to fill their clinician-administered medications at a pharmacy that is often not associated with the clinic or health-system where the patient will be receiving their medication. Through the process of transporting the medication from the pharmacy to the administration location, there are numerous risk points that can degrade the effectiveness of these delicate medicines and/or make them unsafe to the patient.

¹ Procurement Strategies and Patient Steerage. *Actions of the 2022 American Pharmacists Association House of Delegates*. Available at https://www.pharmacist.com/DNNGlobalStorageRedirector.ashx?egsfid=oLmk2frr_Dw%3d.

² Survey on the patient care impact and additional expense of white/brown bagging. *Vizient*. Available at <https://www.vizientinc.com/-/media/documents/sitecorepublishingdocuments/public/noindex/whitebaggingreport.pdf>.

Additionally, due the nature of the diseases treated with these clinician-administered medications, such as cancer, many doses are highly individualized based off laboratory results taken the day the dose is planned to be administered. The process of requiring a medication be transported from a distant pharmacy location starts prior to the day of labs being drawn and analyzed. This can result in the need for dose adjustments that consequently cause the transported medication to become obsolete and must be wasted. Not only does this create unnecessary and expensive waste of valuable medications, it delays the patient receiving their needed care. A recent survey of health-systems found that over 80% reported that medication deliveries did not arrive on time causing delays in care and 66% reported that dosages were no longer correct.³

APhA advocates for procurement strategies and care models that lower total costs, do not restrict or delay care, and ensure continuity of care.⁴ H8254 will take notable steps to accomplish these care models by protecting the safety and effectiveness of patients' medications and ensuring patients have the autonomy to choose where their clinician-administered drugs are dispensed from.

For these reasons, we support H8254. If you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA, APhA Advisor for State Government Affairs by email at mmurphy@aphanet.org.

Sincerely,



E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA
Advisor for State Government Affairs
American Pharmacists Association

cc:

Representative James N. McLaughlin
Representative Susan R. Donovan
Representative Mia A. Ackerman
Representative Samuel A. Azzinaro
Representative David A. Bennett
Representative Nathan W. Biah
Representative Liana M. Cassar
Representative Kathleen A. Fogarty
Representative Joshua J. Giraldo
Representative Arthur Handy
Representative Patricia L. Morgan
Representative Brandon C. Potter
Deputy Minority Whip Sherry Roberts
Representative June Speakman

³ Survey on the patient care impact and additional expense of white/brown bagging. *Vizient*. Available at <https://www.vizientinc.com/-/media/documents/sitecorepublishingdocuments/public/noindex/whitebaggingreport.pdf>.

⁴ Procurement Strategies and Patient Steerage. *Actions of the 2022 American Pharmacists Association House of Delegates*. Available at https://www.pharmacist.com/DNNGlobalStorageRedirector.ashx?egsfid=oLmK2frr_Dw%3d.