

December 3, 2001

To: Joe Walsh

From: Gayle Wolf

Re: CVS Legislation for the 2001 session

- **SENATE BILL S-209 SUB A similar to HOUSE BILL H5394 SUB A AS AMENDED AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**  
BY: Graziano, Tassoni, Walsh, Polisena, McDonald  
This act establishes a maximum work day for hourly wage health care facility employees. We successfully had this legislation amended to exclude pharmacist from the definition of employee because of their work schedule at the individual pharmacies.  
Passed the Senate as amended.  
SUPPORT with amendment
- **SENATE BILL S-378 similar to HOUSE BILL H-5988 AN ACT RELATING TO PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ELDERLY - ELIGIBLE DRUGS UNDER THE RHODE ISLAND PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM (RIPAE)**  
BY: Irons, Garabedian, Caprio F., Fogarty P., Roberts  
This act expands the list of eligible drugs under the RIPAE program. The cost of this legislation is unknown. Our concern is that provider reimbursement would be reduced if additional funding were needed for the RIPAE program.  
Held in Senate Finance  
OPPOSE
- **SENATE BILL S-993 AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS - PHARMACY**  
BY: Celona, Garabedian, Irons, DaPonte, Algieri  
This act requires manufacturers of recalled drugs to accept returns. This legislation was introduced late in the session (June 21) at the request of someone at CVS. After further discussion it was decided to hold the bill. Senate Corporations scheduled it for a hearing. After realizing that additional research was needed Patrick and I discussed the issue with Senator Celona. He agreed at our request that the bill be held without testimony. The committee voted to hold for further study.  
Held in Senate Corporations at our request.
- **SENATE BILL S1038 SENATE RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL SENATE COMMISSION TO STUDY PHARMACY PRACTICES IN RHODE ISLAND**  
BY: Connors  
This commission was introduced and passed the last day of session. We talked with Senator Irons about our concerns and he agreed to wait to make the appointments. Nothing has been done to activate the commission.

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- HOUSE BILL H5299 SUB A AN ACT RELATING TO PHARMACIES  
 By: Costantino, Palangio, Montanaro, Ginait, Lewiss  
 This act completely revamps the pharmacy laws. It was continuously revised. We monitored the hearings and floor amendments. We continued to keep Carlos informed of any suggested language. Eventually it became law and CVS was comfortable with the language.  
 MONITOR
- HOUSE BILL H5394 SUB A AS AMENDED similar to SENATE BILL S-209 SUB A HEALTH CARE FACILITIES STAFFING  
 BY: Menard, Moura, Dennigan  
 Patrick and I monitored the house version to be sure it didn't pass without the amendment the Senate added to exclude pharmacists from the definition of employee.  
 Held in House HEW  
 MONITOR
- HOUSE BILL H5495 AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- FREEDOM OF CHOICE  
 BY: DeSimone  
 Allows a person with health insurance benefits to choose any pharmacy to fill their prescriptions. The bill was heard and died in committee.  
 Held in House Corporations  
 OPPOSE
- HOUSE BILL H5748 AN ACT RELATING TO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS  
 BY: Kilmartin  
 Requires all pharmacies to sell prescription medication to senior citizens at the same discounted rate they charge the Rhode Island Medicaid program. Transferred from House Corporations to House Finance. We testified in House Finance and the bill died in committee without a vote  
 Held in House Corporations  
 OPPOSE
- HOUSE BILL H5909 AN ACT RELATING TO RHODE ISLAND PRESCRIPTION DRUG REDUCTION ACT OF 2001.  
 BY: Moura, Hetherington, Palangio, McCauley, Cicilline D.  
 "Price Control"  
 This act
  1. establishes a price reduction program
  2. prohibits the practice of profiteering in prescription drugs.
  3. creates a prescription drug advisory commission
 Patrick and I monitored and testified in House Finance. This is a very bad piece of legislation. It was transferred from house HEW to house Finance where it died in committee.  
 Held in House Finance  
 OPPOSE
- HOUSE BILL H5988 similar to SENATE BILL S-378  
 Expands the list of eligible drugs included in the RIPAE program  
 BY: Long, Amaral, Murphy WH.  
 Held in House Finance  
 OPPOSE