



May 21, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Support H. 8529 – Rhode Island Life Science Hub Act

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the 195 District, I write in strong support of H. 8529, legislation that further strengthens Rhode Island's framework for innovation-driven economic development and enhances coordination between the Rhode Island Life Science Hub and the 195 District.

The 195 District is Providence's Innovation District. It was created to serve as a place where research institutions, entrepreneurs, residents, and employers could grow together in a modern, mixed-use innovation district. Over the last several years, we have seen meaningful progress toward that vision through new housing, commercial investment, startup activity, and the continued expansion of Rhode Island's life sciences ecosystem.

As the District continues to evolve, close collaboration with the Rhode Island Life Science Hub is both logical and necessary. The life sciences sector depends heavily on coordinated planning, infrastructure readiness, talent development, research partnerships, and the ability to move quickly in a highly competitive marketplace. H. 8529 creates a stronger connection between these organizations at an important time for Rhode Island's economic future.

The bill's governance changes — including representation between the Life Science Hub and the 195 Commission — will help improve communication, strategic alignment, and long-term planning across projects and initiatives that are deeply interconnected. These partnerships will support efforts to attract companies, accelerate development opportunities, and build an environment where innovation-focused industries can succeed.

The legislation also reinforces the tools that have allowed the District to remain responsive, development-ready, and competitive in attracting investment. Efficient planning and coordinated redevelopment authority continue to play an important role in turning underutilized land into productive economic assets for the state.

Rhode Island has an opportunity to distinguish itself as a collaborative and agile environment for life sciences growth. H. 8529 helps advance that goal by fostering stronger institutional alignment and reinforcing the long-term vision for the District as a center for innovation and economic opportunity.

I respectfully urge favorable consideration of H. 8529.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caroline Skuncik".

Caroline Skuncik
Executive Director
195 District