



May 19, 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 Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I write in support of H. 8529, legislation that strengthens collaboration between the Rhode Island Life Science Hub and the 195 District.

The 195 District has emerged as a critical engine for economic growth, attracting private investment, housing, research activity, and innovation companies to Providence. At the same time, the Rhode Island Life Science Hub is working to position the state as a competitive destination for life sciences research, commercialization, and workforce development. Creating stronger alignment between these organizations is both practical and strategic.

H. 8529 would add the Chairperson of the 195 District to the Rhode Island Life Science Hub Board of Directors and add the Chair of the Rhode Island Life Science Hub as an ex officio member of the 195 Commission. This enhanced coordination will help ensure that planning, infrastructure investment, site readiness, and industry recruitment efforts are aligned to maximize economic impact.

The legislation also reinforces the unique role of the 195 District as a catalyst for innovation-focused development by preserving and strengthening tools that support efficient redevelopment, coordinated planning, and strategic economic growth.

Rhode Island's future economic competitiveness depends on its ability to attract and retain high-growth industries, create quality jobs, support research partnerships, and foster innovation ecosystems. H. 8529 represents an important step toward achieving those goals.

For these reasons, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges favorable consideration of H. 8529.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive-like shape that starts with a horizontal line, curves upwards, and then extends horizontally to the right.

Laurie White
President
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce