



Partnership

F O R R H O D E I S L A N D

May 21, 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chairman, House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for H8529 – Rhode Island Life Science Hub Act

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Partnership for Rhode Island, I write in strong support of H8529, legislation relating to the Rhode Island Life Science Hub Act. This bill represents an important step toward strengthening Rhode Island's life sciences ecosystem and enhancing coordination between key economic development and innovation stakeholders.

Rhode Island has tremendous potential to become a regional leader in the life sciences sector. The state's world-class universities, healthcare institutions, research organizations, and emerging biotechnology companies provide a strong foundation for growth. H8529 builds on that momentum by improving governance coordination between the Rhode Island Life Science Hub and the I-195 Redevelopment District Commission and by strengthening the state's ability to strategically support life sciences investment and development.

The Partnership for Rhode Island strongly supports efforts to foster industries that create high-quality jobs, attract private investment, expand research and commercialization opportunities, and position Rhode Island for long-term economic growth. The life sciences sector offers exactly that opportunity.

We are particularly supportive of provisions that encourage greater collaboration between the Life Science Hub and the I-195 Redevelopment District Commission. Rhode Island's Innovation District continues to serve as a critical asset for attracting companies and research activity, and stronger coordination between these entities will help maximize the state's investments and accelerate economic development outcomes.

In addition, the bill reinforces transparency, accountability, and strategic planning within the governance structure of both entities while preserving flexibility needed to support complex

development and innovation projects. These changes will help Rhode Island remain competitive in attracting life sciences companies and talent.

The Partnership for Rhode Island believes that growing the life sciences sector is essential to Rhode Island's economic future. H8529 advances that goal and will help strengthen the partnerships necessary to build a thriving innovation economy.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support H8529.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Liz Catucci
Executive Director
Partnership for Rhode Island