

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan Chairwoman
House Committee on Health and Human Services 82 Smith Street, House Lounge
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
RE: Support with Edits for H5427 - An Act Relating To Businesses and Professions
–Pharmacies

Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

Thank you for expanding pharmacist scope of practice for administering vaccines through H5427.

Honorable legislators, as a pharmacy student I am confident in my training and qualifications to administer all childhood vaccines down to age 3, as permitted during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a pharmacy intern in my final professional year, I have only known a world where pharmacists are authorized to give all childhood vaccines down to age 3. With the expiration of that privilege in 2023, I have become increasingly concerned about the access issue this creates for families seeking to avoid vaccine-preventable childhood illnesses. I am requesting that lawmakers please consider amending the proposed bill so that it aligns with the previous access to childhood vaccines down to age 3 for all residents by their trusted and high qualified pharmacists. Ensuring continued access to these essential services is critical for the health and well-being of our communities.

As a burgeoning student Rhode Island pharmacist looking to improve the health and safety of our population, one of the most important services a pharmacist can provide is vaccination services. The accessibility to a pharmacist (many pharmacies are open 24/7 as opposed to other providers' offices which are open 8-5) creates many opportunities for underserved populations and those with busy schedules who cannot find the time to schedule doctor's appointments for vaccines for them and their children. Through my experience within the community pharmacy setting, this was abundantly clear with families bringing their children in for childhood vaccines in the late hours of the night to accommodate their schedules and ensure their children have the protection from illness that everyone deserves. Please consider modifying the law to allow pharmacists to administer all childhood vaccines down to age 3 as permitted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Maxwell McGuire
Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate, 2025
University of Rhode Island