



State of Rhode Island
Office of Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chairwoman, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: Support for H 5427 – 2025

Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

I am writing to you today in strong support of House Bill 5427. This bill, which would allow authorized pharmacists to administer COVID-19 vaccinations, would greatly expand the availability and accessibility of this life-saving vaccine for our children. This is an important step towards recognizing COVID-19 as an ongoing public health challenge. As Chair of the Rhode Island Long Term Care Coordinating Council, I frequently work with populations who are at the greatest risk of complications from COVID-19 and I am certain that this legislation would help to safeguard their health, wellness, and peace of mind.

While the bill as written would be a significant improvement for Rhode Island, I also encourage this committee to have an active discussion about the possibility of expanding this act beyond COVID-19 to cover all FDA-approved immunizations. Routine vaccination as a child is an important predictor of not only adult health but of lifetime school and career success. H 5427 is an important opportunity for Rhode Island to make routine vaccination more accessible to our most underserved populations.

I am grateful to Representative McGaw for sponsoring this bill, and to you and Representatives Kislak, Casimiro, Cotter, Fogarty, Carson, Batista, Potter, and Boylan for joining as cosponsors. I strongly support the passage of House Bill 5427 and I commend you all for working to protect the health of Rhode Island's children.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos".

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Michelle McGaw, Rebecca Kislak, Julie Casimiro, Megan Cotter, Kathleen Fogarty,
Lauren Carson, Jose Batista, Brandon Potter, and Jennifer Boylan
Nicole McCarty, Esq.