



Rhode Island Pharmacists Association

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13 March 2025

[submitted electronically via: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Chair Susan Donovan, House Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H5852 (Solomon) – AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- COLLABORATIVE PHARMACY PRACTICE

Chair Donovan, members of the committee and sponsor Rep. Solomon

The Rhode Island Pharmacists Association is in strong support of amending the current Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA) Statute for pharmacists and prescribers. This bill does not have any financial impact as it is mostly technical and would improve administrative burden that is currently placed on the Department of Health. **This bill has an identical Senate Companion.**

Please note that Rhode Island is the only known state in the Country which has a process for CPA's as complex and burdensome such as ours.

- Pharmacists have been working under collaborative practice agreements alongside physicians and advanced practitioners in Rhode Island for nearly 20 years.
- Collaborative practice agreements help improve patient care by allowing a prescriber to delegate services and management of both acute and chronic diseases to a pharmacist. This entails medication management, ordering labs and education.
- Recently, there have been delays in the approval of new and older agreements, which can impact patient care. Delays have been due to the long administrative approval process which requires **both** the Boards of Pharmacy and Medicine to review and approve these agreements. In some cases, this has taken months to gain approval, or even feedback. The process is out of date and not in line with how other states operate and deliver high quality care.
- This delay can be detrimental to patient care, especially when our state is experiencing a lack of primary care providers, who depend on pharmacists to help manage their patients with conditions such as diabetes, heart failure and COPD.
- The legislation will amend the current statute by:
 - Revising the language to state "providers" as both Nurse Practitioners and Physicians can enter into such agreement.
 - Removes approval from the Board of Pharmacy and Medicine, and keeps the agreement in the hands of the parties who sign the agreements (which is common in almost every other state).
 - Removes administrative burden placed on the DOH
- We have consulted with the DOH, all 50 pharmacy associations across the country, and stakeholders from the major healthcare institutions in RI on this proposed legislation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,
Chris Federico PharmD, BCACP

cc: Jeff Del Ricci Jr
President | Rhode Island Pharmacists Association
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*Affiliated with the American Pharmacists Association and the
National Community Pharmacists Association*