



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

**RE: Support for H 6037 -- 2025**

Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

I am writing in strong support of House bill H 6037 to allow pharmacists to administer vaccines to children, a practice that was permitted from August 2020 to May 2023 during the COVID-19 pandemic. This measure proved invaluable in ensuring children across our state received timely vaccinations, particularly those in underserved communities. We are pleased to see that the changes discussed in prior testimonies have been incorporated into this bill, as they will significantly improve accessibility and healthcare equity for our children.

This bill is exactly what our communities need to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases. Many underserved families lack the means to travel to neighboring states like Massachusetts to receive necessary vaccinations from pharmacists. Additionally, the ongoing primary care provider shortage in Rhode Island makes it challenging for many families to secure timely medical office visits. By empowering pharmacists to administer vaccines, we can bridge these gaps in healthcare access and ensure that all children, regardless of their socio-economic background, have the protection they need against preventable diseases.

Thank you for considering this crucial bill that **will undoubtedly enhance public health and safeguard the well-being of our children**. We urge you to support and pass this legislation to help build a healthier and more equitable future for our communities.

Sincerely,

*Eugenio Fernandez*

Eugenio Fernandez, Jr.  
PharmD, MBA, MPH

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee, Justine Caldwell, David Morales, Teresa A. Tanzi, Mary Ann Shallcross Smith, Kathleen A. Fogarty, Patricia A. Serpa, Megan L. Cotter, Michelle McGaw  

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Nicole McCarty, Esq.