

13 March 2025

[submitted electronically via: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegisature.gov]

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

**Re: H6037 (McEntee)- AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --
PHARMACIES {LC2274/1}**

Dear Chairperson Donovan and members of the House Health and Human Services:

I'm Dr. Jeffrey Bratberg, a clinical professor of pharmacy practice and clinical research at the University of Rhode Island (URI) College of Pharmacy and a staunch advocate for public health, particularly immunizations, for decades, writing on behalf of myself. I have worked with the Rhode Island Pharmacists Association (RIPA) and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) since 2007 on legislation that extended independent and broad adult immunization authority to pharmacists, expanded that authority for influenza vaccination for 9–18-year-olds, and helped RIDOH pass legislation to modify the childhood immunization registry into a lifetime registry.

I wholeheartedly support H6037 extending the authority of pharmacists to administer all vaccines to anyone over age 3. This bill would match and make permanent the current vaccine authority granted to pharmacists through amendments to the federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act in Rhode Island. The PREP Act, since 2021, and now extended to 2029, allows licensed and trained pharmacists to administer all age-appropriate vaccines to people ages 3 and up.

[New research has shown that kids who received pharmacist-administered vaccines versus vaccines in other primary care settings had no effect on the likelihood of kids receiving timely well-child visits.](#) Pharmacist participation in the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, combined with lowering the age threshold for vaccine administration, likely improves overall pediatric vaccination rates.

[URI has led the country as one of the first colleges of pharmacy to require immunization education and certification for all students before they graduate,](#) thus permitting licensed student interns who have completed the training the authority to vaccinate under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist. This 20 hour-long training includes didactic and practical portions, including adult and pediatric vaccination schedules, comparison of vaccine administration between adults and children, including techniques to communicate with children and their caregivers.

I strongly urge the committee to pass H6037 that grants pharmacists the authority to recommend and administer any guideline-recommended vaccine to people 3 years of age and older.

Sincerely,



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