



206 Cranston St. Providence

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 H6037 - An Act Relating To Businesses and Professions – Pharmacies

Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

Thank you for your time today. I'm fully in support of what the Act Relating to Businesses and Professions concerning Pharmacies is set out to accomplish. My hope is that underserved populations would be better served under this bill.

My name is Maya Goode. I am a phlebotomist equipped to perform lead blood testing for children at high risk of lead exposure. In my work, I have personally observed the considerable shortage of access to numerous preventive healthcare services, including vaccine administration. Dr. Fernandez's outstanding contributions and dedication in providing thousands of vaccines to children across the state of Rhode Island are instrumental in addressing this critical gap. There is a significant vacuum in these essential services, disproportionately affecting black and brown populations. By empowering pharmacists to continue providing childhood vaccines as they were allowed to do during the COVID-19 pandemic, we can bridge this gap and ensure equitable access to critical healthcare for all children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical legislation. We are deeply appreciative of your ongoing support in enhancing access to routine childhood vaccinations for the people of Rhode Island, and we look forward to collaborating on policies that safeguard public health.

Sincerely,

Maya R. Goode
Phlebotomist
