

13 March 2025

[submitted electronically via: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Susan Donovan Chair, House Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
RE: (H6037)– AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --
PHARMACIES

Dear Chair Donovan, Vice Chair Giraldo, and members of the Committee,

My name is Natalya Salganik, PharmD, RPh, and I am presently a registered pharmacist in Rhode Island. My place of employment is the community setting. Additionally, I am a graduate student at the University of Rhode Island in Health Outcomes. I am submitting testimony in support of **H-6037**, in order to expand immunization access in Rhode Island for one of our most vulnerable groups: children.

I would like to provide my support for **H-6037**, in order to increase the access of vaccines to children. In a growing world of anti-vaccination sentiments and vaccine-preventable outbreaks, like measles in Texas, we must be mindful of the parents who wish to keep their children safe. Further, we acknowledge the shortages of primary care physicians, including pediatricians, across Rhode Island (as noted in H-5988). From this bill, according to a 2024 survey of Rhode Island-based pediatricians, less than 50% were accepting new or transfer patients other than newborns or siblings of current patients. This represents a significant care gap for patients that move to Rhode Island with children.

Thus, the expansion of existing pharmacist-based vaccination services can allow parents to meet an important care milestone: childhood vaccination. This is not an encroach on physician responsibilities. Instead, it's so parents can rest at ease knowing their children are up to date on vaccine-preventable diseases, like measles and whooping cough. Through our pharmacy training, we are ready to provide care for patients at any life stage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Natalya Salganik, PharmD, RPh
Pharmacist, Rhode Island

