



Rhode Island Academy of
**PHYSICIAN
ASSISTANTS**

RE: House Bill No. 5164 Relating to Education – Health and Safety of Pupils

Position: Support

February 25, 2021

The Honorable Stephen W. Casey
Chair,
House Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, R.I. 02903

Dear Chairman Casey and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Academy of Physician Assistants (RIAPA), the professional organization representing over 700 PAs licensed in the State of Rhode Island, we respectfully submit these written comments in support of H-5164

As you know this bill would remove the requirement that students in grades K – 12 must have a prescription or note from a physician in order to possess and apply sunscreen on school property and at school events and instead require a note from a parent. We believe that this change is not only prudent but necessary.

The evidence that exposure to ultra-violet light is a direct cause of deadly skin cancers and that the consistent use of sunscreens markedly reduces the chances of developing skin cancer is overwhelming and undisputed. Therefore, we firmly believe that state laws should promote the use of sunscreens and not impose barriers as the current law does.

For the sake of our children, we urge you to vote H-5164 out of committee.

Respectfully,

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