

March 30, 2026

The Honorable Susan Donovan, Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Via email to: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

Re: HB 7540, relating to health and safety (vaccinations)

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Members of the Committee:

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) supports the intent of House Bill 7540, which reflects an important and shared goal: ensuring that Rhode Islanders continue to have reliable access to routine childhood and adult vaccinations grounded in sound public health practice. BCBSRI appreciates the Department of Health's and the sponsor's leadership on this issue.

BCBSRI has long supported access to vaccinations. Consistent with the Affordable Care Act's preventive services framework, BCBSRI continues to provide coverage for recommended vaccinations without cost-sharing. In addition, **BCBSRI recognizes the importance of the state-based vaccination program administered by the Department of Health**, which supports access to vaccines across payers and populations. As part of this shared responsibility, **BCBSRI paid into the state's vaccination fund more than \$20 million in 2025.**

The proposal before the Committee reinforces the state's capacity to maintain a stable vaccination system. It will ensure the vaccine recommendations are developed through evidence-based, scientific research, informed by recognized medical and public health authorities. It also provides important protection for medical providers.

The proposal might be brought into alignment with House Bill 7625 (by Chairwoman Donovan) and with the timelines for the existing vaccine assessment financing structure and rate filings. Given the uncertain policy at the federal level, this will support the long-term sustainability of Rhode Island's health care delivery system. As the Assembly continues its consideration of the proposal, BCBSRI looks forward to the opportunity to collaborate with the Assembly, the Department of Health, and other stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration of these views and for your continued focus on policies that protect the health of Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Richard Glucksman,

Assistant General Counsel