

Steven Sepe

From: Bryan McCarthy <bryancmccarthy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 1:53 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: Rep. Donovan, Susan R; Rep. Giraldo, Joshua J.; Rep. Potter, Brandon C.; Rep. Ackerman, Mia A.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Boylan, Jennifer; Rep. Fogarty, Kathleen A.; Rep. Cotter, Megan L; Rep. Handy, Arthur; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M.; Rep. McGaw, Michelle E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Speakman, June; Rep. Stewart, Jennifer A.; Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Solomon, Joseph J. Jr.; Rep. Morales, David; Lynne Urbani; Cfedericorx@gmail.com; info@ripharmacists.org
Subject: Support H7921 - Test to Treat

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Bryan McCarthy, PharmD

Vice President & Chief Pharmacy Officer
Providence, Rhode Island

The Honorable Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee

Rhode Island General Assembly
State House
Providence, RI

Re: Support for H7921 – Pharmacists Test-and-Treat Authority Act

Dear Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing in my **personal professional capacity as a licensed pharmacist and health system pharmacy leader in Rhode Island** to express my strong support for **House Bill H7921, the Pharmacists Test-and-Treat Authority Act**. The views expressed in this letter are my own and do not represent an official position of my employer or any affiliated organization.

Timely access to testing and treatment for common, self-limiting, and communicable conditions is critical to protecting public health and preserving health system capacity. Pharmacists are among the most accessible health care professionals in the state and are extensively trained in medication therapy management, patient assessment, and clinical decision-making. H7921 recognizes and appropriately leverages this expertise.

Based on my professional experience, pharmacist-provided test-and-treat services—when delivered pursuant to evidence-based, statewide protocols—are safe, effective, and well-accepted by patients. Authorizing pharmacists to independently perform CLIA-waived testing, initiate appropriate therapy, provide counseling, and refer patients when needed can meaningfully improve access to care, particularly for patients who may otherwise rely on urgent care centers or emergency departments for relatively routine conditions.

I strongly support the bill's emphasis on **statewide protocols, required training and competency, documentation, communication with primary care providers, and public health reporting**, which collectively

ensure appropriate safeguards, quality, and integration with the broader health care system. These provisions strike an appropriate balance between expanded access and patient safety.

In addition, the reimbursement provisions included in H7921 are essential to the practical and sustainable implementation of test-and-treat services. Coverage parity for pharmacist-provided services within their lawful scope of practice ensures patient access while supporting value-based care delivery and more efficient use of health care resources.

For these reasons, I believe H7921 represents a thoughtful, well-structured advancement of pharmacy practice that aligns with public health goals, improves access to timely care, and supports the evolving needs of Rhode Island's health care system. I respectfully urge the Committee to support and advance this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work on behalf of the health of Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Bryan McCarthy, PharmD

Licensed Pharmacist, Rhode Island

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Bryan C. McCarthy Jr., Pharm.D., M.S., M.J