



February 26, 2026

Dear Chair Murray and Members Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

Re: Support for S2379 and S2568

I am pleased to support bills S2379 and S2568 on behalf of SACRI. Our mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities. It accomplishes this through *community organizing, public education, advocacy, and legislative action*. *When we talk about quality of life for older adults addressing healthcare including preventative care is a priority.*

S2379 and S2568 require the RI Health Director to include in its immunization program those vaccines for routine childhood immunization as recommended by either the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) or as determined by the director of the department of health to be necessary to protect the public health, and for routine adult immunization as recommended by the ACIP, or as determined by the director of the department of health to be necessary to protect the public health. The bill further requires a state level advisory committee to review the director-initiated proposals for the state.

In addition, S2379 requires all health insurance plans and managed care contracts to provide coverage with no cost sharing for those vaccinations recommended by the RI Health Department.

These bills are important for protecting our state's public health infrastructure as changes being made by the federal Centers for Disease Control relating to routinely recommended vaccination requirements can create confusion for both providers and consumers with a possibility of increasing the incidence of some highly communicable diseases such as measles.

It is important for all Rhode Islanders – parents seeking advice about immunizing their children as well as older adults needing direction on which vaccines are recommended and recommended timing -- that there be standardization on RI's vaccine policy. Further, this policy should be determined by local experts providing evidenced-based recommendations based on our demographics and clinical practice.

It is equally important that cost not be a deterrent to preventative care. Mandating coverage as called for in S2379 provides equitable access to immunizations thereby increasing compliance with vaccine schedules and reducing disease burden and costs.

I urge you to act favorably on these bills.

Sincerely,
Carol Anne Costa, SACRI Executive Director