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**24 February 2026**

**To: House and Senate HHS Committees**

**From: William Hollinshead MD MPH FAAP**

**Date: 26 February 2026**

**Re: Support for SB2379 and SB2568 - Appropriate Vaccines**

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**As a physician long responsible for the nationally recognized universal statewide immunization program of the RI Department of Health, I strongly endorse these provisions to continue support of a program that has protected Rhode Islanders from many serious diseases for many decades. At a time of scientific regression, misinformation, and chaos in federal vaccine policies, it is especially important that state programs remain strong and faithful to good evidence.**

**I am also part of a family that included an aunt who suffered measles encephalitis at 5yo. She and all of us would have avoided 60 years of struggle, dependency, and institutionalization if today's vaccines had been available then. We must continue to prevent such tragedies here.**

**Thank you for your support of Rhode Island's long tradition of public health excellence.**