

14 April 2026

[submitted electronically via: slegislation@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Melissa Murray
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
State House, 82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

Re: S2386 (DiPalma) - AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES - Coverage of Pharmacist Services – SUPPORT - Bratberg

Chair Murray and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing in support of S2386, which requires insurers to pay for pharmacists' services within their scope of practice. I am a pharmacy professor and public health advocate for expanding access to healthcare for our most underserved populations, writing in my personal capacity, and not of my employer, URI. This bill has a companion in the House (H7536 - Casimiro) that was heard in the House HHS committee on March 3, 2026.

Rhode Island [and its neighbors are](#) currently experiencing a [primary care crisis](#). Yet hundreds of pharmacists working in community pharmacies, hospitals, and clinic-based practices are already providing unreimbursed medical services beyond medication dispensing and could [rapidly and cost-effectively](#) fill these care gaps.

Pharmacists are underutilized, visible, highly trained and [accessible](#) healthcare professionals who optimize the prevention and treatment of acute and chronic diseases. This bill grants pharmacists the ability to be equitably paid for their medication-related services wherever they practice. Some of these public health and primary care services include:

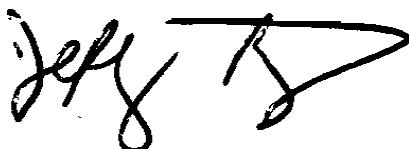
- Medication use optimization
- Comprehensive Chronic disease state care
- Emergency medication and vaccine distribution
- Transitions of care between hospitals and community settings
- Substance use disorder medications and referral services

In 2021, the legislature passed a law expanding pharmacists' scope of practice to administer medications, including vaccines, but without insurance coverage. **To adequately serve our communities, equitable payment for these services must be established to ensure their implementation and sustainability.**

Pharmacist compensation for these services can reduce preventable deaths, emergency department visits, and hospitalizations, while also generating a significant return on investment (ROI).

I cannot emphasize enough the **public health value, patient and provider benefits, and cost savings** that S897 will provide the citizens of Rhode Island, and I support its passage by the committee and full Senate.

Sincerely,



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