

14 April 2025

[submitted electronically via: slegislation@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Melissa Murray Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

RI State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

RE: S2386 – RELATING TO INSURANCE – ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

Dear Chair Murray, and Members of Senate HHS Committee:

My name is Joseph Honig. I am currently a practicing pharmacist in the state of Rhode Island and President of the RI Pharmacists Association. **I am writing for the full support of S2386 – RELATING TO INSURANCE – ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES as a practicing pharmacist and on behalf of the RI Pharmacist Organization.**

This bill would increase the access to care for Rhode Islanders and improve patient health outcomes. As a practicing pharmacist in a specialty clinic in Rhode Island, having the ability to bill for services will expand patient access to care while improving patient outcomes. Every medical professional providing care in my clinic setting can bill an insurance company for their services including: registered dietitians, respiratory therapists, nurses, physician assistants, advanced practice nurse practitioners, physical and occupational therapists, and medical doctors. Pharmacists are the only licensed health professionals who cannot obtain payment from insurance companies for their life saving work.

Data shows pharmacist payment for services does not increase health care costs to the patient or the insurance company. Obtaining payment for services would also address the primary care provider shortage by utilizing pharmacist billed services to increase the pay for **ALL** in the health system. All of this leads to increased retention of employees within a health system, improved quality of life, improved patient outcomes, and enhanced access to patient care.

Again, as the only health care providers who cannot bill insurance companies for services, pharmacists are being left in the dust and pushed to the side when it comes to cost containment strategies as we do not have the ability to assist clinic revenue.

Thank you for your time.

Joseph Honig, PharmD, RPh, CDOE, AE-C

President, RI Pharmacist's Association

East Greenwich, RI