

April 14, 2026

[submitted electronically via: SLegislation@rilegislature.gov]

Dear Honorable Members of the Rhode Island Senate HHS committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill S2386 which would allow for coverage of pharmacists' services in Rhode Island. My testimony reflects my own opinion and views and does not represent that of my employer(s).

I am a practicing clinical pharmacist with over 12 years of experience at Brown Medicine's Division of Kidney Disease and Hypertension. I am also a proud constituent of West Warwick, Rhode Island. Throughout my career, I have worked collaboratively within interdisciplinary care teams to manage complex chronic conditions, including hypertension, chronic kidney disease, and diabetes.

Pharmacists are highly trained medication experts who are uniquely positioned to improve patient outcomes through direct clinical care. However, the inability to obtain reimbursement for many of these services remains a significant barrier to fully utilizing pharmacists in patient care roles. Passage of S2386 would help address this gap and expand access to high-quality, team-based care.

Allowing reimbursement for pharmacist-provided services including but not limited to, blood pressure management, diabetes medication titration and adjustment, tobacco cessation counseling, and patient education would have meaningful benefits. These services improve disease control, reduce hospitalizations, and enhance patient engagement in their care. Additionally, enabling pharmacists to practice at the top of their scope allows physicians and other providers to focus on more complex diagnostic and treatment needs, improving overall efficiency within the healthcare system.

This legislation is particularly important in the context of the ongoing primary care provider (PCP) shortage in Rhode Island. Access to timely primary care services remains a challenge for many patients across the state. Expanding the role of pharmacists as reimbursable providers can help alleviate this burden by increasing access points for essential chronic disease management and preventive care services.

From my firsthand experience, integrating pharmacists into care teams leads to better outcomes, improved medication safety, and enhanced patient satisfaction. Supporting this bill represents a practical, evidence-based step toward strengthening our healthcare workforce and improving access to care for Rhode Islanders.

I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill S2386 and please contact me should you have any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelley D. Sanzen, PharmD." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'K' and 'S'.

Kelley Doherty Sanzen, PharmD, PAHM, CDOE  
RIPA Past President 2010-2011  
West Warwick, Rhode Island