

Re: S2386 – An Act Relating to Insurance — Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies

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

My name is Matthew Lacroix, a resident of Senate District 9 (West Warwick), a licensed pharmacist, and Speaker-Elect of the American Pharmacists Association House of Delegates. I strongly support S2386.

This legislation is straightforward: when pharmacists provide patient care services within their existing legal scope of practice, they should be reimbursed if those same services would be covered when provided by a physician assistant, nurse practitioner or other licensed healthcare provider. This is about aligning payment with care already being delivered.

Rhode Island continues to face access challenges across the healthcare system. Pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare professionals and are trained in medication management, care of chronic disease, and clinical decision-making. This bill allows the state to utilize an existing workforce to expand access without duplicating services.

There is also a strong return on investment. Pharmacist-provided care improves outcomes while lowering total healthcare costs by optimizing medication use, preventing complications, and reducing avoidable hospital and emergency department utilization. In team-based care settings, pharmacists allow physicians and other providers to focus on diagnosis and more complex care, improving overall system efficiency.

Importantly, S2386 does not expand scope of practice. It aligns reimbursement with services pharmacists are already authorized to provide, including evaluation and management, medication therapy management, medication administration, and ordering and evaluating laboratory tests. It also ensures pharmacists are included as providers within medical networks, not just through pharmacy dispensing benefits.

Rhode Island has a ready workforce of pharmacists prepared to support patient care immediately under this model. S2386 is a practical, cost-effective step to improve access and strengthen our healthcare system.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew Lacroix, PharmD, MS, BCPS, FAPhA

West Warwick, Rhode Island

Speaker-Elect, APhA House of Delegates (2026–2027)

mlac3543@gmail.com