



WOOD RIVER HEALTH
Caring for Our Community Since 1976

Honorable Chair Murray
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Senate Bill 2379 and Senate Bill 2568

February 26, 2026

Dear Senator Murray and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

I write to you in strong support of S2379 and S2568.

Community Health Centers administer vaccines every day to infants, children, adults, and older Rhode Islanders. We see firsthand that vaccines remain among the most effective tools in medicine to prevent illness, hospitalization, and death. Among children born during 1994–2023, routine childhood vaccinations will have prevented approximately 508 million cases of illness, 32 million hospitalizations, and 1,129,000 deaths.

At the same time, declining vaccination rates and growing public confusion threaten these gains. Clear, evidence-based policy and removal of access barriers are essential.

S2379 appropriately eliminates cost-sharing for Department of Health-recommended vaccines across commercial insurance and Medicaid. Even modest cost-sharing creates real barriers to preventive care, particularly for low-income and fixed-income patients. In practice, copays and deductibles delay or prevent vaccination. Eliminating cost-sharing strengthens equity, improves uptake, and reinforces vaccination as routine preventive care. It also reduces administrative complexity in physician offices, supporting standing orders and team-based care models that make vaccine delivery efficient and accessible.

S2568 is equally important. It ensures that routine childhood and adult immunization recommendations in Rhode Island are grounded in evidence-based, medically sound scientific research and informed by trusted professional organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

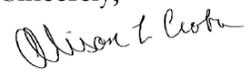
Recent national changes to vaccine recommendation processes have reduced—rather than restored—public trust. It has also caused confusion among clinicians, and the public, about the rationale for these new recommendations. Clear, routine recommendations are critical for effective implementation.

Together, S2379 and S2568 ensure that Rhode Island's immunization policies are both accessible and anchored in rigorous science. Removing financial barriers while reinforcing evidence-based, transparent recommendations protects patients, supports physicians, and strengthens public trust.

Vaccines save lives. Access to vaccines is critical. Sound science, clear policy, and real-world clinical expertise must guide immunization efforts in our state.

We respectfully urge passage of S2379 and S2568.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison L. Cook".

President & CEO