

29 April 2026

[submitted electronically via: [slegislation@rilegislature.gov](mailto:slegislation@rilegislature.gov)]

The Honorable Melissa Murray Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services  
State House - 82 Smith Street, Room 101  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: SUPPORT – S2851 – AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --  
PHARMACISTS TEST-AND-TREAT AUTHORITY ACT**

Dear Chair Murray, Sponsor Lauria and HHS Committee,

My name is Connor Charbonneau, and I am a fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) candidate at the University of Rhode Island. I am writing in strong support of S2851, which authorizes pharmacists to perform and interpret CLIA-waived tests and prescribe appropriate medications under statewide protocols.

This legislation is an important step toward improving timely access to care in Rhode Island. Pharmacists would be able to assess patients, conduct testing, and initiate treatment for common conditions such as influenza, COVID-19, and group A streptococcal pharyngitis. These are conditions in which delays in care can worsen outcomes and increase transmission.

Pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare professionals, practicing in nearly every community. Expanding test-and-treat services will reduce barriers to care, particularly in underserved areas, while decreasing unnecessary emergency department visits and improving overall health system efficiency.

This bill also ensures patient safety through evidence-based protocols, required training, and clear standards for documentation, communication, and referral. Additionally, reimbursement for these services supports sustainable implementation and allows pharmacies to invest in necessary infrastructure.

S2851 enhances patient access to timely, effective care by enabling pharmacists to practice at the top of their training as medication experts.



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