



April 28, 2026

Dear Rep. Donovan and Members, House Health and Human Services Committee,

RE:S2851

SACRI is pleased to support S2851 introduced by Senators Lauria, DiMario, Valverde, Murray, Vargas, Mack, Kallman, Urso, Pearson and DiPalma.

SACRI's mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities. We accomplish this through *community organizing, public education, advocacy, and legislative action*.

S2851 takes an important step forward in modernizing healthcare delivery in our state. It would remove unnecessary barriers to care, reduce the burden on emergency departments, and leverages the clinical expertise of one of our most accessible healthcare professions by authorizing pharmacists to order, perform, and interpret CLIA-waived **tests** and subsequently prescribe medications under statewide protocols.

One of SACRI's priorities is to improve access to healthcare for older adults and those adults with disabilities. This is especially important as our state faces a crisis in primary care. Local pharmacies are a frequent point of contact within our healthcare system. Allowing persons to receive testing and care for common "low-acuity" conditions such as flu and strep throat by readily available pharmacists can avoid days-long waits for a primary care appointment or avoid a trip to an urgent care center or an extended wait in an over-run Emergency Room.

The bill allows for rapid testing of CLIA-waived tests -- those cleared by the FDA for home or laboratory use that are simple and have a low risk for an erroneous result --which must follow state protocols. This will allow for quick recommendations for evidenced-based care and treatment.

And finally, the bill also allows for Test-and-treat services to be considered a reimbursable service under state-regulated health insurance plans including Medicaid which will promote equity in our healthcare system. Passage of this bill will help all R.I.ers receive the timely, affordable, and professional care they deserve. We encourage you to support its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Anne Costa, SACRI Executive Director
Maureen Maigret, SACRI Policy Advisor