

1 May 2026

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

The Honorable Melissa Murray Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
RE: S2851 – RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS – PHARMACISTS TEST-AND-TREAT  
AUTHORITY ACT – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Murray and members of the Committee:

The following testimony was written by Spencer Donovan, a pharmacist and the Director for Legislation for the Rhode Island Society of Health-System Pharmacists. We are an organization that represents pharmacists that practice within the health care system including hospitals and ambulatory care clinics. My comments and support are representative of both my organization and myself. Thank you for allowing time to voice support for S2851.

Many common transmissible diseases such as COVID-19, influenza, Group A streptococcal pharyngitis, and numerous sexually-transmitted infections have the potential to be rapidly spread amongst the community. Fortunately, these diseases can be rapidly identified and timely treatment can effectively limit their spread; however, given the limited availability of primary care providers in Rhode Island many residents seek costly emergency department visits to access treatment or go untreated. With the availability of rapid testing and clear treatment options there is no reason why patients should not be able to access the necessary treatment to manage these diseases. Pharmacists are often the most accessible healthcare providers throughout Rhode Island communities and are well-trained to identify, recommend testing for, and provide treatment recommendations for these diseases but are currently limited in their ability to expedite the treatment process. S2851 would enable pharmacists to expedite the testing and treatment process for these common diseases conferring both an individual and public health benefit to the communities they serve. Pharmacists are well-equipped to provide this service and can help alleviate the primary care provider deficit in Rhode Island by providing this valuable testing and treatment pathway in a manner consistent with their professional training, licensure, and practice. We urge you to support S2851 as it will not only acknowledge the vital role of pharmacists but also improve the quality of healthcare for the citizens of Rhode Island. Thank you for considering this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Spencer Donovan, PharmD, MHA, DPLA  
Director of Legislation, Rhode Island Society of Health-System Pharmacists