

29 April 2026

[submitted electronically via: 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 – S2856 – AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --
PHARMACIES

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

My name is Connor Charbonneau, and I am a fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy candidate at the University of Rhode Island. I am writing in strong support of S2856, which expands pharmacist authority to administer routine, scheduled, and recommended immunizations to pediatric patients ages three through eighteen.

This legislation is an important step toward improving access to preventive care and strengthening immunization infrastructure in Rhode Island. By expanding pharmacist-administered immunizations beyond influenza and COVID-19 to include all routine and recommended vaccines, this bill helps ensure that children and adolescents can receive timely vaccinations, reducing gaps in care and improving overall vaccination rates.

Pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare professionals, and community pharmacies often offer extended hours and walk-in availability. Expanding pediatric immunization authority allows families greater flexibility in accessing essential vaccines, particularly in situations where scheduling with a primary care provider may be delayed or difficult. This is especially important for maintaining adherence to recommended immunization schedules and preventing outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Importantly, S2856 maintains strong safeguards to ensure patient safety and continuity of care. The bill requires parental consent, mandates timely reporting of administered vaccines to the Department of Health, and ensures communication with a patient's primary care provider when available. These provisions support coordinated, high-quality care while expanding access.

S2856 enhances Rhode Island's public health efforts by improving access to routine immunizations, supporting higher vaccination rates, and allowing pharmacists to contribute more fully to preventive care.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Connor Charbonneau

Connor Charbonneau
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Pawtucket, Rhode Island