

Dear Chair Murray and Members of Senate HHS:

My name is Eric Pohl. I am a 4th-year pharmacy student at the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy. I currently work in the community pharmacy setting at CVS in Charlestown, Rhode Island. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2856.

This bill enables pharmacists who are authorized to immunize to provide seasonal, routine, and scheduled vaccines to children ages three and older, up to the age of 18. Passing this bill would significantly increase accessibility to vaccines for children, who would otherwise have to receive them at their pediatrician's office. Increased accessibility directly reduces the risk of contraction and transmission of vaccine-preventable illnesses.

Pharmacists receive extensive training and certification to administer vaccines, including techniques and procedures for administering vaccines to children. Young children are at increased risk for developing vaccine-preventable illnesses at daycare or from family members, especially during cold and flu season. Allowing pharmacists to administer vaccines to children ages 3–18 would meaningfully reduce this risk and improve community health, leading to better health outcomes and a reduced financial burden on the healthcare system, including fewer hospitalizations, less missed work or school, and overall improved population health. Thank you.

Eric Pohl,  
Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate  
South Kingstown, Rhode Island

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Pohl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.