

1 May 2026

[submitted electronically via: Slegislation@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Melissa Murray Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: S2856 – RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS – PHARMACIES – ADMINISTRATION OF
VACCINATIONS – **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 S2856.

Childhood immunizations are a fundamental element of preventative healthcare for which decades of research have confirmed and built upon the positive health outcomes they confer, both for individuals and patient populations as a whole. Pharmacists play a vital role in the administration of vaccinations in many healthcare settings for adult patients, and are currently able to administer influenza and COVID-19 immunizations to pediatric patients aged 3-18 years. S2856 would be greatly beneficial to patients by enabling pharmacists to administer routine, scheduled, or recommended immunizations to patients in this same age group. Expanded access to healthcare providers that are trained to safely prepare and administer these immunizations is critical given the ongoing primary care provider shortage and pharmacists are often the most accessible healthcare providers to the general public. By enabling pharmacists to administer these immunizations it will confer both individual and population benefits to children in Rhode Island in a manner consistent with their professional training, licensure, and practice.

We urge you to support S2856 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