

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 2866.

This bill streamlines collaborative practice agreements for pharmacists by simplifying the process for finalizing an agreement between a provider and a pharmacist. Collaborative practice agreements for pharmacists are a critical component of patient care. A pharmacist under a collaborative practice agreement can help with medication management, monitoring of chronic conditions, and assessing lab values. These tasks are done in accordance with agreed-upon protocols and standards of care.

Enabling pharmacists to work under a collaborative practice agreement decreases the burden on providers and increases accessibility to healthcare for patients. Currently, the process of obtaining a collaborative practice agreement in Rhode Island includes additional steps such as multiple board approvals and stipulating parameters. This process often leads to delays in approval of the agreement, which in turn leads to unnecessary delays in care for patients. As a student pharmacist actively working in the community setting, I have seen firsthand how delays in care impact patients, and this bill will meaningfully improve access and outcomes. S2866 eliminates the board filing process and enables pharmacists and providers to act on collaborative practice agreements once reviewed and signed, thus improving access to healthcare and increasing patient care opportunities.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Pohl". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.