



**RHODE ISLAND**  
CHAPTER

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AMERICAN COLLEGE of CARDIOLOGY®

March 8, 2026

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

As the Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, we are writing today to express our support of the proposed legislation, **Senate Bill 2871**. The Rhode Island Chapter represents **over 200** cardiovascular professionals who provide care to all Rhode Islanders. Our members comprise the entire cardiovascular team, including cardiologists, nurses, technologists, and administrators. Our goal has always been to prevent cardiovascular diseases, ensure optimal quality of care for individuals with such diseases, and foster the highest professional ethical standards. With this mindset, we strongly support Senate Bill 2871.

Senate Bill 2871 requires the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to provide self-measured blood pressure (SMBP) monitoring for eligible pregnant and postpartum individuals under Rte Smart. It will also cover home monitors, training, data transmission, and co-interventions. Expanding Medicaid to cover these devices will ensure that all women in Rhode Island, regardless of their economic status, have access to the tools they need to monitor their blood pressure at home to ensure a healthy birth and postpartum period.

Hypertension and preeclampsia are major contributors to maternal morbidity and mortality, and they can develop quickly, often without noticeable symptoms. Self-measured blood pressure cuffs allow pregnant and postpartum women to monitor their blood pressure regularly at home. Studies show that regular monitoring of blood pressure during pregnancy and the postpartum period can reduce the risk of these complications and others, such as strokes and heart disease. By having the ability to measure their blood pressure at home, women can provide their healthcare providers with consistent data, leading to more accurate assessments and early detection of hypertension, preeclampsia, or other life-threatening complications.

Senate Bill 2871 has the potential to save countless Rhode Island mothers' lives. With maternal mortality and morbidity rates rising across the country, it is time for Rhode Island to act. We are proud to support Senate Bill 2871 and ask you to join us in passing and funding this legislation.

Thank you.

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