

29 April 2026

[submitted electronically via: [slegislation@rilegislature.gov](mailto: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 – S2888 – AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --  
PHARMACIES

Dear Chair Murray, Sponsor Valverde, 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 S2888, which authorizes pharmacists to prescribe and dispense FDA-approved tobacco cessation therapies and provide coverage for pharmacist-directed clinical services.

This legislation represents a meaningful advancement in public health by expanding access to evidence-based tobacco cessation care. Tobacco use remains one of the leading preventable causes of disease and death, and improving access to cessation therapies is critical to reducing this burden. By allowing pharmacists to directly prescribe these therapies, patients can receive timely support without unnecessary delays or barriers to care.

Pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare professionals, practicing in nearly every community across Rhode Island. This bill enables pharmacists to initiate structured cessation programs, provide counseling, and conduct appropriate follow-up, all of which are essential components of successful tobacco cessation.

Importantly, S2888 maintains strong patient safety protections. Pharmacists must complete approved training, follow established clinical guidelines, and refer high-risk patients or those with contraindications to appropriate providers. Additionally, communication with a patient's primary care provider ensures continuity of care and coordination within the healthcare team.

The inclusion of insurance coverage for pharmacist-provided services is also essential. Ensuring reimbursement for these services supports sustainable implementation and allows pharmacists to fully integrate into the healthcare system as providers, improving access while maintaining high-quality care.

S2888 strengthens Rhode Island's healthcare system by expanding access to tobacco cessation services, improving population health outcomes, and allowing pharmacists to practice at the top of their license.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connor Charbonneau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Connor Charbonneau  
Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island