

1 May 2026

[submitted electronically via: [Slegislation@rilegislature.gov](mailto:Slegislation@rilegislature.gov)]

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

RE: S2888 – RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS – PHARMACIES – SMOKING CESSATION SERVICES – **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 S2888.

Pharmacists are an invaluable resource for patients as some of the most readily accessible healthcare providers in the United States and who already receive inquiries regarding smoking cessation services regularly across their practice settings. As medication experts pharmacists are uniquely positioned provide smoking cessation services which currently would require patients to engage a primary care provider for those services; given Rhode Island's ongoing primary care provider shortage this is extremely difficult for patients to accomplish when pharmacists are an accessible resource that could alleviate this burden. S2888 would ensure that pharmacists could provide smoking cessation services on par with those same services that would be provided by a physician, advance practice nurse, or physician assistant. It would also ensure that health plans provide coverage for the same services as provided by pharmacists so this practice would be financially sustainable.

We urge you to support S2888 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