



205 Cranston St. Providence

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan Chairwoman  
House Committee on Health and Human Services 82  
Smith Street, House Lounge  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: Support with Recommendations for H5427 - An Act Relating To Businesses and Professions – Pharmacies**

Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

Thank you for your time today. I'm fully in support of what the Act Relating to Businesses and Professions concerning Pharmacies is set out to accomplish. However, I recommend the following adjustments to ensure that all childhood vaccines administered by pharmacists are available in Rhode Island as permitted during the COVID-19 pandemic. My hope is that underserved populations would be kept in mind for the purpose of these amendments.

My name is Maya Goode. I am a phlebotomist equipped to perform blood testing for children at high risk of lead exposure. In my work, I have personally observed the considerable shortage of access to numerous preventive healthcare services, including vaccine administration. Dr. Fernandez's outstanding contributions and dedication in providing thousands of vaccines to children across the state of Rhode Island are instrumental in addressing this critical gap. It is imperative to adjust the law so that this impactful work of administering all childhood vaccines can continue, as this is vital for our community. There is a significant vacuum in these essential services, disproportionately affecting black and brown populations. By empowering pharmacists to continue providing childhood vaccines as they were allowed to do during the COVID-19 pandemic, we can bridge this gap and ensure equitable access to critical healthcare for all children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this critical legislation. We are deeply appreciative of your ongoing support in enhancing access to routine childhood vaccinations for the people of Rhode Island, and we look forward to collaborating on policies that safeguard public health.

Sincerely,

Maya R. Goode  
Phlebotomist