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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE VITAL ROLE OF INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY PHARMACIES IN
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Linda L. Ujifusa

Date Introduced: April 28, 2026

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Independent community pharmacies are a cornerstone of Rhode Island's
2 healthcare system, providing accessible, personalized, and trusted care to residents in every part
3 of the state; and

4 WHEREAS, These pharmacies are locally owned small businesses that support
5 neighborhood economies, create jobs, and serve as reliable healthcare access points—particularly
6 for seniors, individuals with chronic conditions, and residents in underserved areas; and

7 WHEREAS, Independent pharmacists provide essential services beyond dispensing
8 medications, including counseling, immunizations, chronic disease support, and coordination of
9 care with other healthcare providers; and

10 WHEREAS, The pharmacy landscape is evolving, with changes in how and where
11 patients access prescription medications, including the reduction of physical retail locations by
12 national pharmacy chains; and

13 WHEREAS, As access points shift, independent community pharmacies continue to
14 provide consistent, in-person care and often serve as a dependable option for patients seeking
15 continuity and personalized service; and

16 WHEREAS, Independent pharmacies operate within a complex healthcare and
17 reimbursement environment, including interactions with pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and
18 public programs such as Medicaid, which play a role in shaping how pharmacy services are
19 delivered and sustained; and

1 WHEREAS, Maintaining a strong network of independent community pharmacies
2 supports patient choice, promotes access to medications, and contributes to a resilient,
3 community-based healthcare system; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby recognizes and honors
5 the independent community pharmacies of Rhode Island for their essential contributions to
6 patient care, public health, and local economies; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate expresses its appreciation for the pharmacists and staff
8 who serve their communities with dedication and professionalism; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Pharmacists Association and
11 to independent pharmacies throughout Rhode Island.

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