

HB76: Health Occupations- Pharmacists- Administration of Vaccines

UNFAVORABLE

Sarah Cusack

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Distinguished Members of the House HGO Committee,

Please give HB 76 an UNFAVORABLE report.

HB 76 is a bad idea that gets worse every year. In 2024, we are at a point where I question whether pharmacists should even be vaccinating adults. If you read the current media about pharmacies (and there is plenty), pharmacists are quoted as saying the Covid vaccines broke the back of an already overworked, understaffed environment. When pharmacists started vaccinating adults, they were giving flu shots. Now adults are coming in for Tdap, Shingles, Covid, and RSV vaccines, with many, many more vaccine products in the pipeline. When you consider this bill, realize that the adult schedule will also continue to expand making these pharmacists even busier in the future.

Even if this bill had ever been a good idea, the time is certainly not now, when pharmacists are walking out, considering striking, and discussing forming unions because their working conditions are so bad. Pharmacies are trying to increase their income without spending the money on appropriate staffing and infrastructure needed to vaccinate children.

Please read the attached submitted article from CNN, "Mistakes at work happen. For pharmacists it can end their career"

From the article, "A 2022 National Community Pharmacists Association survey showed that nearly 75% of respondents felt they did not have enough time to safely perform clinical duties and patient care."

The current environment in pharmacies actually requires state regulations to protect consumers. No further responsibilities should be granted to pharmacies until they get their act together, especially responsibilities regarding children.

Thank You so much for your consideration,
Sarah Cusack, MPT
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