

I am writing to let you know of my **opposition to HB530**. While pharmacists undergo extensive training in order to do their job, they are not trained in the same way as a doctor or other medical care providers. Training on pre-existing conditions or contraindicators is not part of a pharmacist's training, but is vital to successfully making a decision with a patient, or parent of a patient, in order to administer a vaccine.

Since implementing the policy that pharmacists could administer flu vaccines, hundreds of new compensation cases have been brought by Federal Vaccine Injury Program on SIRVA, simply because of improper injection. If pharmacists aren't educated in proper administration of the vaccine, in addition to their lack of training on pre-existing conditions and contraindicators, many more people will end up with vaccine injuries and federal funds will be used to address this.

It must also be considered that while having a pharmacist administer your vaccine is "convenient" those who will take advantage of this option are likely the more disadvantaged of society, which then discourages our most vulnerable from seeing a doctor and having a thorough appointment and exam. Pharmacists are not trained to recognize chronic illness, nor can they diagnose or recommend treatment for conditions that need care. In that vein, pharmacists will not necessarily recognize when someone should not receive a vaccine due to an illness and should wait until they are healthy.

The difficulty tracking who has had what vaccine where and when will further complicate things. While steps are being taken to connect everyone's health records that is far from working perfectly and allows an over or under administration of vaccinations. In addition, when records are required for the schools, typically providers will produce evidence of the vaccinations they have administered, this puts undue burden on the medical offices if information is missing or inaccurate in the records that pharmacists provide.

Additionally, our pharmacists are already significantly overworked and the pharmacy departments are understaffed. Having to verify insurance, pay attention to noted drug allergies, make changes as needed when insurance won't cover or someone can't afford a prescription, advising customers, and more already leads to a large number of medication mistakes. To place undue burden on our pharmacists by expecting them to now administer any and all vaccines will compromise further the reliability of the pharmacy and will lead to additional medication errors, which at times are fatal.

Finally, it is important for the team approach of the medical provider, patient, and parent (if patient is a minor) in determining proper timing and receipt of vaccinations and to evaluate a patient's overall health. This should not be left up to a pharmacist, they are skilled in what they do, and vaccines is not it.

Please vote NO for this bill!

Sincerely,

-Caryn Koppenhoefer

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