

SB 736: Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Administration of Vaccinations

OPPOSE

Good Afternoon Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and the Members of the Committee. Thank you for letting me testify today.

My name is Jo Fitzgerald. I come to you as a registered nurse, and a concerned grandmother. If this bill passes, my three grandsons will be affected.

There is an injury called SIRVA (Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration), this injury has dramatically increased since adults started receiving vaccines in pharmacies. Inappropriate placement of a needle into the shoulder ligaments, tendons, bursae, or even the brachial nerve can cause nerve damage that can lead to paralysis and chronic pain.

If this injury is happening to adults who are willing participants and who sit peacefully while the vaccine is being administered, what is going to happen to a squirming, uncooperative child as young as 3? Also, this bill reflects that a physicians order for this invasive procedure is not needed - call me old fashion, but I believe that if an invasive procedure is being done then a medical physician should be doing an assessment and then writing an order for the administration of same.

Vaccines are an invasive medical procedure and should be treated as such by being performed in a medical facility and not a retail business. Physicians complete the assessment on a "well visit" which also includes an assessment for appropriateness of administering a vaccine that is on the CDC guidelines that are recommendations only.

An experience that I had with my own children serves as a perfect example to support vaccines being in a medical office. When my 5 year old received a vaccine in the the doctors office he passed out, fell on the floor, knocked his 3 year old brother down, chop blocking him in his legs which appeared to be a possible broken leg. Meanwhile the 5 year old was passed out on the floor, it took 40 minutes for his blood pressure to recover, while at the same time consoling a screaming 3 year old. The physician and staff were available to manage the medical issues of both the children.

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