

Oppose SB0736

I am in opposition of this bill for several reasons:

-Many parents, particularly those who may be single and/or working multiple jobs, lack transportation, etc. are very unlikely to make the necessary yearly visits to their child's pediatrician if this bill goes through. While it may seem very convenient to have vaccinations administered at a grocery store pharmacy during a routine shopping trip, it negates the very significant act of a thorough medical examination by a specialized medical professional. During a typical well-visit, doctors consider the patient's medical history, perform a hands-on exam of the child, conduct an interview with parent and child to determine any underlying health concerns, and recommend any necessary interventions or lab-visits. A pharmacist has neither the training nor the time to go through this thorough process. Missing this step could cause unnecessary adverse reactions since not every vaccine is appropriate for every child. The childhood immunizations schedule is recommended assuming a healthy patient. Pharmacists don't have the time to consider all the pieces necessary to determine if a child is a candidate for each specific vaccination (citation:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>).

-Since this bill would inadvertently discourage regular visits to the pediatrician, the relationship between pediatrician and parent will be affected negatively. There may be a lack of trust that develops between the parent and pediatrician in that the pediatrician feels their level of expertise is being overlooked and the parent feels there is no need to depend on the pediatrician for the health-needs of their children. Then, if/when the child is ill and needs the pediatrician to intervene, there will be a lot of gaps in the healthcare relationship making it harder from diagnosis through treatment.

-Early intervention has become a hallmark in the diagnostic process for autism spectrum disorder. Having an autistic brother-in-law myself, I have been made aware of the struggle my mother-in-law encountered in getting services for her son, decades ago, when he was a child. Thankfully, things have changed drastically between then and now and there are so many resources available to parents with concerns regarding autism. This early intervention relies on regular visits to a pediatrician though. While autism can be diagnosed as early as age 2, it is most commonly diagnosed at after the age of 4 (citation: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/autism-statistics>) . If parents begin bypassing the yearly well-visits, believing that immunization is the main purpose for attending those appointments, I fear that there will be an unnecessary and potentially damaging decrease in the necessary early intervention protocols.

-There is a lack of compassion and sympathy for a child's privacy and emotional well-being in a pharmacy-environment. Young children are generally very hesitant to be given shots, even when made aware of the reasoning behind them. Because of this, it is important for there to be a level of rapport between the person administering the vaccine and the child. Additionally, there is a level of privacy that a patient should expect when undergoing a medical procedure, even something as presumably benign as a routine vaccination. Children often cry and become

distressed during the vaccination-process and typically require being physically restrained by a parent. Children (and their parents) deserve more than to experience this level of emotion in a bustling pharmacy where the privacy, time, and consideration for their stress-level and emotions cannot be provided.

-The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 disallows liability to be placed on a medical professional who injures a patient through vaccine-administration. Therefore, if pharmacists are allowed to administer vaccines, there is no legal recourse if a child is injured in the process.

-Pharmacies are already busy and often have long waiting-times for consumers. Adding vaccination-service/administration will only serve to make waiting-times longer and will cause an influx of customers at certain times of year (right before the beginning of the school year for instance). This means pharmacists will have less time and patience to consult with and counsel consumers who are there to pick up medications.