

**HB1040: Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Administration of Vaccinations
OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Distinguished Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

This committee heard a similar bill last session, HB530. Last session the minimum age of the child was 9-years-old. The Committee filed an UNFAVORABLE report for HB530. Lowering the age to 3-years-old makes this bill more concerning and more dangerous.

I reached out to a friend who has been a Pharmacist for 15 years and asked her what she thought of this bill. She said, "Sarah... Some Pharmacists do not like children."

Her comment ripped through me. I am a Pediatric Physical Therapist and I know that Pediatrics is a difficult specialty that takes a special person and skill set.

Pharmacists, who are smart enough to have gone through Medical School, chose a profession that does not require them to do direct patient care. They certainly did not choose to do specialized direct patient care with pediatrics. Vaccinating a 3-year-old child is nothing like vaccinating an adult who sits patiently for a shot that they want to receive. Pharmacists are not pediatric specialists, and 3-year-olds will run, cry, and scream, especially if a provider does not know how to work with them.

According to the CDC's Recommended Child Immunization Schedule, children between ages 4-6 are recommended to get vaccinations for Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Chicken Pox, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, and Influenza. If the child is found to be appropriate, these can all be given in a single visit. Often 2 nurses assist a parent to hold a young child down to receive these shots. My friend, who works in a Wal Mart Pharmacy said she has two chairs with pull down tables to vaccinate people in. This is completely inappropriate. Young children are going to be half-dressed and screaming in the middle of Wal Mart, Target, and CVS.

This is not fair to Pharmacists who are busy filling prescriptions and will have to stop every time a child gets in line for some shots.

When children are vaccinated at the Pediatrician, they receive a full physical examination and assessment for vaccine readiness and appropriateness. The CDC recommended "schedule" is ONLY A RECOMMENDATION. It is not a checklist. Pharmacists do not have this level of expertise.

Please, I ask that the Committee give this bill an UNFAVORABLE report.

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