

SB0372 oppose

Dear Chairman Augustine and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am a mom of four school-aged kids and wife of a person suffering with lifelong epilepsy. My mom also lives with us because of her own health struggles.

My husband had brain surgery one year ago to control his seizures, but he still requires anti seizure medications. I count on the pharmacist to be alert and present when they fill my husband's prescriptions. Filling the prescription accurately means my husband can function in his daily life. Seizures knock him out for at least half a day. Seizures mean he can't drive for months. Maintaining proper levels of the meds in his blood means he lives a better life. Mistakes in filling his prescriptions can be serious.

Over the past twenty years, many times the neurologist has changed my husband's meds. Every time, insurance and pharmacies and doctors have had to coordinate communication. There have been countless times I've been alerted a prescription is ready, and I've gone to pick it up only to find that actually the preapproval still needed to be submitted or it was the wrong dosage or they accidentally refilled instead of changed the med, or they substituted with a generic when in this case, the name brand drug was essential because of precision standards, or there was some other problem.

Pharmacists are busy; these issues are just a little of what is keeping them busy. The prescriptions they fill are a tiny part of their busy days, and they are fallible human beings. They are making mistakes without any added responsibilities.

It is dangerous to ask a pharmacist to be busy with their regular job and then add on something as important as childhood vaccines. In my experience, pharmacists have demonstrated the challenge of successfully multitasking their existing responsibilities: consulting with patients, communicating with stakeholders, filling prescriptions and their other things. Vaccinating kids is a very different type of work. The extra burden will lead to more mistakes and will endanger patients.

I oppose SB0372 which would allow pharmacists to vaccinate children. Thank you for voting NO.

Sincerely,

Julie Sharpe  
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