

SB372: Health Occupations- Pharmacists- Administration of Vaccines

UNFAVORABLE

Sarah Cusack, MPT

Dear Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Distinguished Members of the Finance Committee,

As a pediatric physical therapist and a mother, I am opposed to the concept of this bill. Pharmacists are not pediatricians. Pediatricians are supposed to do a thorough assessment of a child before they recommend and administer any vaccination. The CDC recommended schedule it just that.... A recommendation! Pharmacists will just look at a child's age and give them everything on the list.

As a physical therapist, I do not look at a child's diagnosis, find a checklist in a textbook and start treating them according to a checklist. I do an assessment and come up with a treatment plan that is specific and individual to that child. That is what the pediatrician is supposed to do.

I have spoken to several young mothers who are hopeful that the bill will pass. They feel bullied in their appointments with the pediatrician and are asked to leave if they even ask a question about a shot that the child is about to receive. If the bill passes, they told me they will skip the pediatrician and get what shots they want, when they want them at the pharmacy. This will lead to a drop in vaccination rates in our state, and missed diagnoses and medical issues because pharmacists cannot examine the child.

I ask the committee for an Unfavorable report on SB372.

Thank You,
Sarah Cusack, MPT
District 14

