

Dear Senator Augustine,

I strongly OPPOSE SB 372.

I am a Certified Nurse Midwife practicing in MD, DC and VA. I have personally been injured by a pharmacist administering the influenza vaccine to me in fall of 2016. During nursing school, I received the influenza vaccine at a local CVS in Montgomery County. The pharmacist hit a nerve in my deltoid muscle and I was in pain for six months. I could not properly move my arm for two years. For three months, I could not elevate my arm above eye level, nor lift anything heavier than 5 pounds. I still have limitations in movement and have not regained full range of motion despite intensive physical therapy and daily yoga. It was debilitating and affected all aspects of my life. Pharmacists are not trained nurses and 20 hours is NOT sufficient training to administer injections, particularly to children. Additionally:

- Vaccination is a medical procedure that must be done by doctors who have patients' medical records and know their patients the best.
- Pharmacists are not doctors, they MUST NOT have authority to order vaccines for children.
- Pharmacies are busy chaotic places; chaos calls for unexpected mistakes as it has already happened many times!
- Childhood vaccination MUST BE done by pediatricians.
- If vaccination is done at a pharmacy, pediatricians may not have complete records of their patients that may lead to inaccurate treatments and misdiagnoses.'
  
- This bill promotes very low standards by requiring only 20 hours of practical training.

Please **withdraw** SB 372.

Thank you,

Ronit Zelivinski