OPPOSE House Bill 1232

Eszter Szabo Bethesda, MD 20817 March13, 2023

This bill would open the door for pharmacists to administer influenza vaccine to children at least 9 years of age without parental consent and without true informed consent. A 9-year-old first and foremost has no capacity to decide if they need an influenza vaccine. This means that a 9-year-old cannot give true informed consent. Secondly, most 9-year-olds have a good immune system and they thus don't need an influenza vaccine. Parents and guardians should decide what vaccinations their children need to receive.

If a doctor prescribes a vaccine to a child, and parents agree to that in consultation with the doctor, the doctor should administer the vaccine.

The bill also allows pharmacists to order and inoculate children age 3 and over or in certain cases children age 11 and over certain authorized vaccines which are listed in the CDC and Prevention's Recommended Immunization Schedule or approved by the FDA. This would mean including CV19 EUA vaccine administration in some cases without parental consent. This is dangerous and a serious breach of parental rights.

It seems that there is a tendency to want to move vaccination of children outside of the of primary care physicians' office and remove parental authority and the care of the child's primary physician.

Pharmacists are not doctors or nurses. They are not the doctor of the children knowing their medical history. Pharmacists have a lot of responsibilities, adding this to their busy schedule is not a good idea. Recently I received a medication from my pharmacy which my doctor prescribed. At home when I wanted to take the medication, I noticed that the information didn't contain instruction on how many tablets to take per day. Since I couldn't reach the pharmacy nor my doctor, I needed to find the information myself on the internet. This was a simple case. What if a busy pharmacist is administering a vaccine to a 3-year-old? Any small mistake can cause serious harm for that child.

It was also filed as an "Emergency Bill" but there is no emergency. Covid pandemic is over.

Please <u>vote against this bill</u> which is trying to open the door to children being inoculated outside of doctor's offices and possibly without parental consent.