

Oppose SB 18

Position: UNFAVORABLE

Pharmacists have less training and experience administering vaccines, especially to small children. Pharmacies are busy places where a patient may not have sufficient attention from the administering pharmacist. It is well known that many injuries associated with receipt of vaccines are due to improper administration.

The bill does state that a pharmacist must give informed consent. The NCVIA requires the vaccine administrator to give informed consent to the patient or child's parent or guardian. Only being informed about risks and benefits can a patient make a conscious choice about the vaccine, rather than being coerced into receiving it. How does properly providing informed consent work in a pharmacy environment?

The bill does not state that a child must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Can anyone bring a child to a pharmacy for vaccination? How would people actually responsible for a child's well-being know that the child is vaccinated?

Administration of vaccines to children without reviewing the child's medical chart, assessing contraindications, or evaluating the condition of the patient following the administration of the vaccine significantly increases the risk. Adverse reactions may be undetected and unreported to their primary care provider.

There is no evidence that expanding the scope of providers licensed to administer vaccines improves health outcomes, while conversely there is apparent risk in doing so. Furthermore, there is no emergency that necessitates expanding the ranks of providers that can give vaccines. There is strong evidence that the bill will do harm, thus it must be rejected.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,
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