

Unfavorable

SB18- to allow pharmacists to permanently vaccinate children 5 and up

Montgomery

Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Megan Montgomery, and I write to you today to testify on bill SB18- that would allow children 5 and older to be permanently vaccinated at a pharmacy. I am very opposed to this bill.

Children need pediatricians. Period. Children also need SAFE health care. The data shows that there is absolute chaos in the chain pharmacy environment, and that this is no place for children to be getting health care. California completed a study in 2023 (full report here: https://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/meetings/agendas/2021/workforce_presentation.pdf) That shows the following scary realities about the lack of safety in the average chain pharmacy:

1. Of the 4,270 respondents, 2,931 were pharmacists in a chain pharmacy and the majority work as the only pharmacist on duty during a shift.
2. Almost 50% fill more than 250 prescriptions during a typical 8 hour shift- a rate of at least 31 prescriptions per hour, with no time carved out for breaks or lunch.
3. Over 70% of chain pharmacists also provide immunizations, and of those approximately 50% provide more than 20 immunizations per day, a rate of at least almost 3 per hour on top of filling prescriptions at the rate of at least 31 prescriptions per hour.
4. **Q18 Do you believe you have sufficient time to provide adequate screening prior to the administration of immunization? 78% of Chain Pharmacists answered NO!**
5. More than 50% of chain pharmacists answered that they are subject to “workplace metrics” also known as QUOTAS and ‘shift goals’ including:
 - a. Number of immunizations
 - b. Number of prescriptions filled
 - c. Various wait times

6. Almost 90% of chain pharmacists admit to more than one *known* medication error per month, with a correlation being found between prescription volume and the number of errors.
7. 83% of chain pharmacists do not have time to provide appropriate patient consultation, and 91% believe that the staffing at their chain pharmacy is inappropriate to ensure adequate patient care.

These are very sobering statistics, and until the chain pharmacy industry can ensure adequate patient safety and care, children should not be added to a dysfunctional, broken, unsafe system.

Thank you for your time today, and please deliver an unfavorable report on SB18.