

OPPOSE 2024 Senate Bill 0018

Eszter Szabo
Bethesda, MD 20817
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This bill would open the door for pharmacists to administer influenza vaccine or HPV vaccine permanently to children at least 5 years of age without parental consent and true informed consent prior to vaccination. A 5-year-old has no capacity to decide if they need influenza or other vaccines, nor do they know their own health history or contraindications to vaccination. Most 5-year-olds have good immune system and don't need an influenza vaccine or HPV vaccine. Parents and legal guardians should decide what vaccinations their children should receive in consultation with their primary health care provider who is a doctor. If a doctor prescribes a vaccine, and parents agree to that, the doctor should administer the vaccine.

The bill would allow pharmacists to order and inoculate children age 5 and over certain authorized vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices or vaccines approved or authorized by the US FDA, including possibly temporarily Emergency Use Authorized vaccines such as the COVID19 vaccine was for a long time, without parental consent/knowledge prior to vaccination. This is dangerous and a serious breach of parental rights.

Another major issue with this bill is that pharmacists are not doctors or nurses. They are not the doctor of the children who know their medical history. In addition, pharmacists have a lot of responsibilities already, adding this vaccination to their busy schedule is not a good idea. 2 years ago, 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 that night, I myself needed to find the proper dosing information on the internet. This was a simple case with a drug. What if an already busy pharmacist now is administering a vaccine to a screaming 5-year-old who doesn't want to get a vaccine? We must admit it that generally kids do not want to get a vaccine. Any small mistake can cause serious harm for that child. Pharmacists are not trained to handle children. And the child is not in a doctor's office to be taken care of if anything goes wrong.

We don't actually need this bill since we do not have an emergency when we need to vaccinate children quickly.

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