

Dear Esteemed Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing to OPPOSE SB-94 AN ACT ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO ADMINISTER THE INFLUENZA VACCINE TO CHILDREN TWELVE YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.

I oppose this bill for its attempt to circumvent parental rights by allowing minors to get flu shots at the pharmacy. Medical decisions should be made by the parents, children, and trusted medical professionals. I already despise the aggressive marketing of the flu shot at every opportunity in almost every venue, and do not appreciate the opportunity for it to be marketed directly to my children. Would my son want to get a flu shot with his m&ms? What if he could get a gift card? A chance to enter a raffle for an iPad? How would a pharmacist know his medical history, and conditions that make adverse reactions more likely in my child? How would he know if my son had already had a flu shot? Would that even matter? Who would respond when my son had an adverse reaction? Would the pharmacist be trained in proper administration, or could my son develop SIRVA (Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration)? How would the pharmacist keep track of my children receiving such vaccinations?

We currently have enough access to vaccinations through doctors and public health venues. It seems that this bill does more to promote profits for pharmacies and vaccine manufacturers than it does to promote public health.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please join me in opposing SB-94 An Act Allowing Pharmacists to Administer the Influenza Vaccine to Children Twelve Years of Age and Older.

Concerned Parent

Fairfield County, CT