

SB-94 AN ACT ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO ADMINISTER THE INFLUENZA VACCINE TO CHILDREN TWELVE YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

Distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee:

I am writing to ask that you oppose bill SB-94. This bill is another which undermines parental rights, the main purpose of which is clearly to increase the ease of marketing the flu vaccine to children, providing more revenue to the vaccine manufacturers.

There are several reasons why this bill should be strongly opposed. Of course, the most obvious reasons are that a pharmacist is not the appropriate person to administer a vaccine, considering flu vaccines can cause numerous adverse events, including paralysis by GBS. A pharmacist does not know or have access to a child's medical history and would have no idea if the child recently already received a flu vaccine or has an allergy to one of the ingredients in the vaccine. Pharmacists are not properly trained or equipped to handle a situation where the child has a severe side effect or adverse reaction to the vaccine. They will not recognize and cannot treat adverse reactions. Pharmacists are not trained in administering an injection. Furthermore, the parent should not be put in a position at the pharmacy to fend off marketing campaigns from their pharmacist! Vaccine manufacturers are so desperate to make money off of the flu vaccine that they are using grocery stores and pharmacies to give monetary incentives and prizes to those who get them. How can anyone support incentivizing a pharmaceutical injection with potential serious side effects to our children with no informed consent of these side effects? If this bill goes forward, it allows for the possibility of legislative creep, removing parental rights completely and permitting a 12 year old child to make a decision which could cause life-long side effects or death of that child.

Before you move forward with aiding pharmaceutical manufacturers in their marketing of an ineffective vaccine to children with thousands of adverse events reported, I ask you all to consider what is happening in our society. Americans are one of the most sickly populations in the developed world, recently trading places with China in life expectancy. We are also the most vaccinated population on this earth. Why are some of our legislators using legislation to market this vaccine for the pharmaceutical industry when recent studies are showing that it can cause miscarriage in pregnant women? And Compared with unvaccinated children, children who received the influenza vaccine had an increased risk for acute respiratory illness (ARI) caused by noninfluenza pathogens, according to research published in *Vaccine*. Please see: Rikin S, Jia H, Vargas CY, et al. [Assessment of temporally-related acute respiratory illness following influenza vaccination](#). *Vaccine*. 2018;36:1958-1964.

I ask you to dig into the science and safety and efficacy of this vaccine rather than assuming this product can be safely marketed to 12 year old children when they stop in to purchase a Gatorade at the local CVS.

Thank you,

Megan Belval, J.D.