

Public Health Committee Members:

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

A couple of months ago, I called around to six different local pharmacies trying to find one that carried the flu shot my mother wanted. None of the people I spoke with knew the brand name of the flu shots they carried, and they certainly didn't know the ingredients. When my dad told his pharmacist that he wanted to avoid any flu shots made with virus grown in cell culture (i.e. vaccines cultured in animal organs for which there's been no long-term testing on humans), the pharmacist confirmed they didn't have any such shots. They then proceeded to inject him with Flucelvax which is grown in dog kidney cells, the exact thing they promised that their flu vaccine didn't have. Pharmacists know very little about the flu shot. And minors of course know even less. Informed parents who have read the vaccine insert, know the ingredients, and know their child's risk factors for flu complications, are the only ones who are able to best decide whether or not the pros of the flu vaccine outweigh the cons.

I understand we all have the health of our children in mind, as well as the public's health, and I appreciate your desire to do what you think is best for the health of our children. Please take my points into consideration and oppose this bill.

Short Bio: I am a stay-at-home mom in Darien, with a 2.5 year old daughter and a husband who shares my passion on this topic. I have a Masters in Public Health with a concentration in biostatistics and epidemiology, and worked in biotech and pharma for ten years in which I supported their drug safety departments and managed their adverse event reporting system.

Thank you,  
Jessica Cadieu  
Darien, CT