

- Opposition to SB 94  
An Act Allowing Pharmacists to Administer the Influenza Vaccine to Children Twelve Years of Age and Older

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

I am opposed to this bill as it tries to remove parental rights by making this vaccine even more accessible. Vaccine decisions should remain between parent and the family doctor who knows parental concerns, as well as the family health history. As with EVERY drug and vaccine there are side effects making it a risk/reward decision. The flu vaccine has been shown to be very ineffective at best, which for many, may make the risks outweigh the benefits.

Are pharmacists going to sit and discuss the risk/reward with these children, or are they going to stop in the middle of their already busy day managing prescriptions to just give the flu shot to whoever is interested? Are they going to have the time to present and go over the VIS, the Vaccine Information Statement, which is required as per the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 if giving a vaccine to a minor. It's one thing to give this to the recipient and it's another to actually explain it to someone. Most adults wouldn't fully read this and understand it fully, let alone a minor. As per the CDC, this is written at the 10th grade level, again, making my point that a minor would not fully comprehend the complexity of these statements.

Furthermore, there are incentives to get a flu vaccine in drug stores. Who's to say that a teen won't just consent to this to receive such incentive. The rational part of the teen's brain isn't fully developed and won't be until about age 25. According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, "an adolescent brain works differently than adults when making decisions or solving problems. Their actions are guided more by the emotional and reactive amygdala and less by the thoughtful, logical frontal cortex." [https://www.aacap.org/aacap/families\\_and\\_youth/facts\\_for\\_families/fff-guide/the-teen-brain-behavior-problem-solving-and-decision-making-095.aspx](https://www.aacap.org/aacap/families_and_youth/facts_for_families/fff-guide/the-teen-brain-behavior-problem-solving-and-decision-making-095.aspx)

In conclusion, this makes it clear that adolescents do not have the impulse control and rational decision making capabilities to be able to make these important health decisions without parental consent.

Please vote NO on SB 94 for all these reasons.

Thank you,  
Dr. Jackie Flynn