

Public Health Committee Members:

I am writing to offer you my testimony in **OPPOSITION** to SB94: AN ACT ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO ADMINISTER THE INFLUENZA VACCINE TO CHILDREN TWELVE YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

There are multiple concerns with this, aside from the fact that pharmacists should never have been allowed to give injections in the first place. If pharmacists wished to stick people with needles, it would have made more sense to become phlebotomists or nurses.

With regard to the flu shot and minors, it seems unethical to allow anyone to administer drugs without obtaining a full medical history and having the knowledge and training to ensure a patient is eligible and healthy enough to receive the medication. In addition, it is dangerous to allow a pharmacist to inject anyone without the ability to recognize and treat adverse reactions whether immediate or delayed.

We see advertisements everywhere for the flu shot, and pharmacies constantly offer discounts, gift cards, and coupons in exchange. It is my understanding that pharmacists are even pushed to increase "shot sales" as a job performance metric. Incentivizing medicine is deplorable and a dangerous path to walk. What is to stop a parent from "pharmacy hopping," getting multiple shots for a child and collecting along the way?

Furthermore, this bill is a clear back door into allow minors to obtain vaccines without parental consent, which is no place for the state to be involved.

There are plenty of doctors and clinics, including local health departments, offering vaccines to children and families who are in need. Children who do not have their own primary care physicians can go to any of these locations with their parents and receive whatever vaccines are necessary.

Regardless of the rhetoric on vaccination, it is still a medical procedure and needs to remain between parents, patients, and their physicians.

Respectfully,

Jessica G., mother of two  
Meriden