

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

Submitted By:

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Members of the Public Health Committee, I thank you for your time and attention to this matter. My name is Loren Hager and I live in Fairfield, CT. I am writing this testimony in opposition to the above-mentioned bill, SB 94 An Act Allowing Pharmacists to Administer the Influenza Vaccine to Children Twelve Years of Age and Older.

As a mother of 2 children, I oppose this bill for many reasons, first and foremost because Pharmacists are not properly trained to determine a patient's eligibility for vaccines nor do they know how to properly administer them. Already as a result of unqualified or untrained persons administering vaccines, the incidence of a condition known as SIRVA (Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration) is quickly rising. Additionally, Pharmacists are not trained to recognize, treat or respond to adverse reactions to the vaccine. I find it deeply troubling that a medical procedure/intervention/drug can be administered to children without a medical exam or prescription especially now when we are dealing with an opioid crisis from prescription drugs.

On a personal note, one of my children has certain conditions which may make her particularly susceptible to a negative vaccine reaction as well as documented negative reactions to certain medications. According to this bill, she could just walk into a pharmacy and get a flu shot without check on her medical history or an exam ensuring that she can handle this vaccine. While she may know about her issues, as a child, she does not understand the depth and breadth of her situation nor would she necessarily understand the potential impact of receiving certain medical treatment. Then, if she did have an adverse reaction to the shot, who would be there to help since the pharmacist is untrained in this matter?

Again, I thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please join me in opposing this bill, SB 94 An Act Allowing Pharmacists to Administer the Influenza Vaccine to Children Twelve Years of Age and Older