

Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT

February 23, 2019

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing to urge you to **OPPOSE** SB 94: AN ACT ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO ADMINISTER THE INFLUENZA VACCINE TO CHILDREN TWELVE YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.

I have deep concerns regarding this bill as it is the government's overreach of my rights as a parent in raising and caring for my children. Since the bill specifically outlines the age of 12 years or older (without clarifying parent's consent), I assume the intent is to allow pharmacists to administer the influenza vaccine to children without a *parent's knowledge or consent*. Per the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 all parents must be given the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for all vaccines being given to a minor child. Minors cannot comprehend the complexity of these statements and have true informed consent. According to the CDC, Vaccine Information Statements are written at a 10th grade level.

SB 94 allows for risk of improper treatment and harm to children. Vaccines are a medical procedure that comes with clear risk. As a parent, I have comprehensive knowledge of my children's health, medical history, and can properly assess any contraindications with recommended treatments. Minor children, especially those with cognitive delays/impairments, are not capable of making informed decisions. If the treatment resulted in an adverse reaction, my children would be harmed and I would not have the knowledge to seek proper care. *Who would be responsible for any adverse reactions and injury?*

As refugees, my family and I migrated to the United States almost forty years ago. We are proud citizens of this country which affords the protection of liberty, justice and places restriction on the powers of government; *that we once did not have in our country of birth*. Lately, I have been seeing many pieces of legislation, similar to SB 94, that violate these rights that many have fought so hard to protect. Rather than moving forward by learning from our rich history and creating policy that will enrich the lives of citizens as well as this country, *we are moving backwards*.

Members of the Public Health Committee, **I urge you to OPPOSE SB 94.**

Sincerely,
Sinthy Khamsaeng
Meriden, CT

Sources:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/USCODE-2010-title42/USCODE-2010-title42-chap6A>

(sec300aa-26, page 1163). See Appendix I for the rules governing this federal requirement. See Appendix II for an excerpt of this act dealing with VISs.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/about/vis-faqs.html>