

Dear Public Health Committee,

I am writing this testimony in opposition to SB-94 AN ACT ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO ADMINISTER THE INFLUENZA VACCINE TO CHILDREN TWELVE YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.

I have many concerns with this bill.

1. It does not provide for parents to have to give consent before a pharmacist is able to provide the influenza vaccine.
2. A pharmacist may not have knowledge of a child's allergies that could compromise the health and safety of the child. Assuming the child will advocate for him or herself is an assumption that could be disastrous.
3. There is no immediate access to medical care if an adverse reaction occurs in a pharmacy.
4. There is a HUGE conflict of interest for the pharmacist in administering the influenza vaccine. They receive money for each vaccine given and that could put minors at risk. We can't rule out that some pharmacists might put monetary reimbursements before the welfare of an unfamiliar minor and push the flu vaccine on that minor. Children are less likely to refuse a request from an adult in a 'white lab coat' than a fellow adult would be. We need to protect our minors and not risk they get double vaccination because they received it at their pediatrician's office and again at the local pharmacy.

The law should protect minors and require parents to help minors make good health choices. Please leave the law so that only adults can received influenza vaccinations from a pharmacist.

Please oppose SB 94

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Elissa Rader  
Glastonbury