

February 24, 2019

Distinguished Chairs and Public Health Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for SB 94. I **oppose** this bill as a parent and as the Vice President of Health Choice CT (HCCT). HCCT is a grassroots non-profit in CT that protects the rights of CT residents to lead a healthy life. This includes being able to make informed health choices for ourselves as well as our children.

SB 94 would allow pharmacists to administer a flu vaccine to children aged 12 and up. As written, it would also allow that to happen without a parent's or guardian's knowledge or consent. As is the case, this would be a gross overreach on behalf of the state.

These are my concerns:

- It is against federal law per the NCVIA (**National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act**) of 1986 to vaccinate a child without the consent of his or her parent and without giving that parent a VIS (**Vaccine Information Statement**). Per the CDC, the VIS is written for a reading level of 10th grade and above. Please see that federal law here: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2010-title42/html/USCODE-2010-title42-chap6A-subchapXIX.htm>
- This federal law allows parents to be part of the equation and therefore aware, should a child have an adverse reaction to a vaccine.
- A pharmacist is not properly trained in the case of a serious or life-threatening reaction to a flu vaccine. Children are more medically complicated than adults. Pharmacists will not have access to a child's health history, which, in the case of allergies, could be life threatening.
- Multi-dose flu vaccines, which the majority of pharmacies stock, still have thimerosal (methyl mercury) in them, despite the recommendation of the Public Health Service (PHS) and the FDA to remove it in 1999. Thimerosal is the most toxic substance known to man and should never be injected into the human body under any circumstances. That recommendation can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4826a3.htm>
- Medical procedures for children should always be done in the presence of a parent or guardian as well as a pediatrician to minimize the risks.
- My child was injured by a flu shot and is now a special needs child. As a child with special needs, I have real fear that he could be in a pharmacy with friends and feel pressured by someone that he would deem as an authoritative presence and cave to the pressure of that person. This would have life threatening

consequences for my son and he would most certainly have an anaphylactic reaction.

- If the state moves this law forward, it needs to be prepared that it opens itself up to the potential of liability if a child is harmed or killed by a pharmacist administering the flu vaccine to a child 12 and above.

For all of the above stated reasons, I vehemently **oppose** SB 94 and urge this committee not to move it forward to a vote. I appreciate your time and your commitment to the children of CT and in assisting parents in keeping them safe.

Sincerely,

Melissa Sullivan
Concerned Parent
Vice President of Health Choice CT
State Director of the National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC)