

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

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

I am fundamentally against moving a child's medical care from a doctor's office to a pharmacy. Flu shots, as well as all vaccine, are categorized as unavoidably unsafe because of the potential for side effects. Pharmacists are not trained to respond to these adverse effects.

Administering flu vaccines to children is adding even more to a pharmacist's already busy schedule. Are pharmacists even given enough time to determine a patient's eligibility for a vaccine? Is this a profession we want to encourage to rush? Pharmacists should be given the time to do their intended job properly without the added pressure of administering childhood flu vaccines onto of his or hers already demanding workflow.

And by providing incentives for not only the child to get a flu shot at the pharmacy - through the use of free gift cards and merchandise or coupons - but also to the pharmacist - in terms of better hours, contests and more - we are encouraging them to rush. In fact, many pharmacists have said they are reprimanded for not asking every person who comes to the counter if they want a flu shot, even if they know they have already received it.

I don't believe our children's medical care should be decided by which pharmacy is giving away the best prizes. Incentivized flu shots are not only unethical, but it targets low-income families and encourages them to not seek medical care.

Respectfully,

Jessica Y.