



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SB 167-A

The Oregon State Pharmacy Association and the Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists urge your **support** of **SB 167-A** which provides the Public Health Director or Governor with the authority to authorize pharmacists to administer vaccines to children between the ages of 3 to 10 years.

In 2009, the Legislature passed HB 3236, which allows pharmacists to administer vaccines and immunizations to persons 11 years of age or older. In 2011, the Legislature expanded the Practice Act granting pharmacists vaccine-prescribing authority so that they may administer immunizations to persons 11 years of age or older through the federal Vaccinations for Children program (VFC).

According to the Center for Disease Control, on average 24,000 Americans die each year of the flu. Though it appears that the worst of the flu season may be behind us, this legislation would enable the Public Health Department to better cope in the future with influenza epidemics by adding pharmacists to their arsenal of health care providers that can vaccinate younger children.

- Currently, pharmacists in Oregon can immunize children over the age of 11, and ages 10 and under with a prescription. In the case of an official outbreak or emergency, SB 167-A will allow pharmacists to immunize children between the ages of 3 to 10 years without a prescription when specifically authorized to do so.
- Under the drug administration rule, a pharmacist can administer a vaccination to a child of any age with the appropriate prescription and protocol. Currently the Oregon Health Authority writes the immunization protocols for pharmacists and they are approved by the Immunization Program Medical Director. They are posted and updated regularly on the Immunization Program's webpage. However, the typical pharmacy-based immunization training only covers down to 3 years without additional training.
- In the event of an outbreak such as measles or influenza, SB 167-A will allow pharmacies to assist in vaccinating the public to contain the outbreak or address an emergency.

Approved by the House Health Care Committee with a "do pass" recommendation, OSPA and OSHP urge your **support** of **SB 167-A** as it will help make the process for administering vaccinations in emergencies more efficient.