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Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of Walgreens, our 87 stores and approximately 2,000 Oregon-based employees, I am writing to ask for your support of SB 520, sponsored by Senator Kruse that would allow pharmacists to administer vaccinations to patients age seven and above.

This legislation is important because it will increase access and convenience for Oregonians to immunizations, and help improve individual health and lower costs within the healthcare system by preventing potential long-term illnesses.

Healthcare has changed dramatically in recent years and will continue to change in the years ahead. Consumers are able to receive immunizations at convenient times and locations that fit their busy lifestyles, while maintaining the critical relationship with a primary care physician.

Although a majority of patients who receive immunizations do have a primary care physician, many do not. And a pharmacy can serve a particularly critical role in those patients' healthcare, and ultimately help bring them into the broader healthcare system, which may include establishing a primary care physician.

Pharmacists play an integral role in today's patient-driven health care system and are trusted and trained professionals. Oregon families and their children ought to have as accessible, convenient and affordable vaccinations when possible.

Thank you and I respectfully ask you to support SB 520.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Smith
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EVERY DAY WE HELP PEOPLE GET, STAY AND LIVE WELL.