



Testimony In SUPPORT of Senate Bill 505

To: The House Health Care Committee
From: Shawn Miller, Miller Public Affairs

On behalf of Sanofi Pasteur

Chair Greenlick, members of the House Health Care Committee, my name is Shawn Miller and I'm appearing today on behalf of Sanofi Pasteur, which is the vaccines division of the multinational pharmaceutical company Sanofi. Sanofi Pasteur is the largest company in the world devoted entirely to vaccines and its vision is a world in which no one suffers or dies from a vaccine-preventable disease.

It has been recognized for many years that people 65 years and older are at greater risk of serious complications from the flu compared with young, healthy adults. During most seasons, it's estimated that 90 percent of seasonal flu-related deaths and between 50 and 60 percent of seasonal flu-related hospitalizations in the United States occur in people 65 years and older. This is because human immune defenses become weaker with age. So influenza can be a very serious disease for people 65 and older.

Senate Bill 505 simply requires, from October 1 through March 1 (flu season) of each year, each hospital in this state must offer influenza virus to patients 65 years of age or older.

- Studies show that the flu shot can be up to 70% effective in preventing hospitalizations for influenza in those persons over 65.
- Currently, the flu vaccine is available at no additional out-of-pocket cost for Medicare patients—no coinsurance, copayment and they do not have to meet a deductible.
- Starting in January 2012, acute inpatient hospitals are required to report on the % of acute care hospitalized in-patients who were screened for seasonal influenza immunization status and were vaccinated prior to discharge. Hospitals are financially penalized for not reporting.
- Most hospitals in Oregon are probably doing a great job immunizing their patients 65 years of age and older. However, passing Senate Bill 505 simply standardizes this practice in Oregon which would assure that influenza vaccine will be offered to seniors 5, 10 years from now; for our parents and grandparents.

LEGISLATION:

- Currently this legislation has passed in 13 states-CA, FL, GA, NJ, NY, OH, PA, TN, LA, NE, MS, MO and TX.
- Passed via regulation in AZ