

May 5, 2015

The Honorable Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State House of Representatives
Salem, OR

RE: Senate Bill 520 – Relating to vaccinations administered by pharmacists

Dear Representative Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Health Care:

On behalf of the members of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) operating in Oregon, I would like to thank you for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 520, which would allow pharmacists to administer immunizations to individuals down to the age of seven. The NACDS member companies in Oregon operate over 400 stores, employ over 58,000 full and part-time employees, and pay over \$52 million in state taxes.

We do have one minor housekeeping amendment we would like to suggest: In section 1, delete subsection (4) since we have the ALERT system, established in 2011, to which all immunizations are reported which was not the case when the original immunization law was written.

In 2012, only 1.7% of Oregon residents were immunized for influenza, ranking 45th in the country. Pharmacists receive training and a certificate in the prescribing and administering of all the immunizations approved by the CDC down to the age of three through a CDC approved training program provided through the American Pharmacists Association. Pharmacy students also have immunization training and receive a certificate as part of their curriculum. As part of their education, pharmacists are also trained to deal with any potential adverse reactions. In addition, pharmacists can receive special training to administer travel vaccines such as yellow fever.

In calendar year 2014, over 135,400 immunizations were administered in community pharmacies in Oregon (Data are from Source ® PHAST Prescription Monthly, calendar year 2014). We are encouraged by Senate Bill 520 that many additional, needed vaccines will be administered in local communities by pharmacists to patients and families that may otherwise go unimmunized. We believe by lowering the age, more families will take advantage of immunizations at their local pharmacy.

We appreciate your work on behalf of retail, community pharmacy and ask for quick passage of this very important legislation.

Sincerely,
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