

DEC 14 2010



Senate of Pennsylvania

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Edwin B. Ericksen *EBE*

DATE: December 13, 2010

SUBJECT: Cosponsorship of Legislation – Immunizations by Pharmacists

I intend to introduce legislation similar to Senate Bill 1463 of 2010, which will amend Section 9.2 of the Pharmacy Act to allow pharmacists the ability to immunize patients under the age of 18. The legislation will also permit pharmacy interns who have completed appropriate education and training requirements to administer immunizations under the direct, immediate and personal supervision of a pharmacist who is authorized to administer immunizations.

Public Health statistics have shown the value of vaccines as preventative healthcare and that the dollars spent on immunizations prevent the much higher costs in the future treatment of various diseases. Increasing access to healthcare is critical in Pennsylvania, and this can be helped by expanding a pharmacists' existing ability to provide immunizations.

Since the original act passed in 2002 and the regulations were finalized in 2006, pharmacists in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been dedicated to improving the immunization rates for those individuals over the age of 18. Nearly 2000 pharmacists in the state have the ability to provide much needed vaccines, and schools of pharmacy have now placed this skill as part of their curriculum. Last year approximately 275,000 immunizations were provided by pharmacists in Pennsylvania. Time and again pharmacists have proven to be a properly trained, trusted and easily accessible member of the medical team, and their ability to provide immunizations to a larger population will simply improve access to affordable healthcare to more citizens of Pennsylvania.

Many states from across the nation already allow pharmacists to provide immunizations to a younger population than what currently exists in Pennsylvania. These states have continuously stated the positive results from this pharmacist provided service.

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) and the Pennsylvania Association of Chain Drug Stores (PACDS) fully support this legislation.

If you would like to join me in sponsoring this legislation, please contact Linda Kauffman at 7-1350 or lkauffman@pasen.gov.