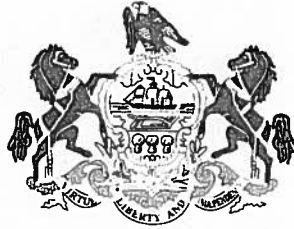


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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** All House Members  
**From:** Representative Seth Grove  
196<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
**Date:** February 1, 2011  
**Subject:** Pharmacists to provide much needed Immunizations (**Former HB 2397**)

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In the near future, I will be reintroducing House Bill 2397 from the 2009-2010 session that amends Section 9.2 of the Pharmacy Act to allow Pharmacists the ability to immunize patients under the age of 18 and trained and licensed pharmacy interns to also immunize under the direct supervision of a pharmacist who possesses an immunization license.

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

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. Currently, more than 1,800 pharmacists in the state now have the ability to provide much needed vaccines, and schools of pharmacy now have this as part of their curriculum. Pharmacy interns who have been properly trained through their curriculum need to enhance their skills under the supervision of a pharmacist. Pharmacies now annually provide many thousands of flu shots and other immunizations that might not be given, thus reducing healthcare costs and preventing illness and disease.

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association and the Pennsylvania Association of Chain Drug Stores support this legislation.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Lisa Burkholder at [lburkhol@pahousegop.com](mailto:lburkhol@pahousegop.com) or 717-783-2655. Thank you for your consideration.

**Previous Cosponsors:**

Grove, Belfanti, Boyd, Brennan, Caltagirone, Causer, Gabler, Gibbons, Gingrich, Goodman, Hess, Oberlander, Readshaw, Reichley, Seip, Stevenson and Bear