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The Honorable Representative Daniel Hawkins, Chair  
Honorable Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee  
Kansas State House of Representatives  
Topeka, Ks

January 23, 2017

RE: House Bill 2030 relating to vaccinations administered by pharmacists

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Dean Benton. I am the Clinical Care Coordinator for Dillons Pharmacy a division of the Kroger Company that operates 57 pharmacies across the state of Kansas in 25 different communities. Also, Dillons is a member of the KACDS and we have been working with the organization on this issue over the past year. I am here in support of this proposed change in vaccination administration by pharmacists to allow our customer's access to vaccines in the same location that they currently receive their flu shots. I am a pharmacist and have provided vaccinations in this state since 2001. These vaccinations were administered to patients in the pharmacy as well as at their place of employment at the employer's request and patient's desire. I am also a National Trainer for the American Pharmacist Association Immunization Delivery program that is used to train pharmacists in the administration of vaccines.

We strongly support HB 2030 to allow increased access for vaccines to our customers. This bill would allow the state an ability to improve immunization rates of Kansans to avoid vaccine preventable disease through increased access at no additional burden upon the state budget. The bill would also allow for an increased convenience for Kansans to be vaccinated in the same location that they are vaccinated for influenza. Pharmacists have proven to be a reliable source of vaccinations as shown by the consistent increase of vaccines now being provided by pharmacies across the state.

The addition of pharmacists providing non-flu vaccines to those age 6 to 18 years of age allows Kansans an additional 899 locations across the state that would now be allowed to vaccinate this age group. Many of these pharmacy locations are open additional hours compared to that of current provider's and would allow for more choice of the consumer. Rural areas of the state where consumers currently have difficulty finding a provider for vaccination services would now have more opportunities available through this increased access.

Pharmacists began vaccinating Kansans at the age 6 and above in 2010, and since that time Kansas has seen the vaccination rates for Influenza in those age 5 to 12 increase from 47.7% and age 13 to 17 from 28.6% in 2010 to 58.7% and 39.5% respectively in 2016 based on the CDC data on influenza vaccination rates for Kansas. This increase in vaccination rate has decreased the burden of disease and complications thereof across the state, improving the overall health and wellness of Kansans and the associated decrease in the spread of disease in those at risk population groups. This impact that pharmacists have provided in Influenza administration showcases a potential impact that pharmacists can have as this bill is enacted. Looking at data in partnering states and the rates in which vaccinations have improved, there is a clear pattern that exists as we see expanded age of vaccination for pharmacists and its effects on vaccination rates.

We are encouraged by HB2030 that many additional vaccines will be administered in local communities by pharmacists increasing the immunization rates of Kansas to avoid complications from vaccine preventable diseases.

We appreciate your work on behalf of the Dillons pharmacies and our customers across this great state and ask for passage of this very important legislation.

Thank you for considering my views on this issue, I am happy to respond to questions.

Talk to your child's doctor or nurse about the vaccines recommended for their age.

	Flu <i>Influenza</i>	Tdap Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis	HPV Human papillomavirus	Meningococcal		Pneumococcal	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis A		Inactivated Polio	MMR Measles, mumps, rubella	Chickenpox <i>Varicella</i>
				MenACWY	MenB							
7-8 Years	Green	Orange		Purple		Purple	Orange	Purple	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
9-10 Years	Green	Orange	Purple	Purple		Purple	Orange	Purple	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
11-12 Years	Green	Green	Green	Green		Purple	Orange	Purple	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
13-15 Years	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange		Purple	Orange	Purple	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
16-18 Years	Green	Orange	Orange	Green Orange		Purple	Orange	Purple	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange

**More information:**

Preteens and teens should get a flu vaccine every year.

Preteens and teens should get one shot of Tdap at age 11 or 12 years.

Both girls and boys should receive 3 doses of HPV vaccine to protect against HPV-related disease. HPV vaccination can start as early as age 9 years.

All 11-12 year olds should be vaccinated with a single dose of a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY). A booster shot is recommended at age 16.

Teens, 16-18 years old, may be vaccinated with a MenB vaccine.



These shaded boxes indicate when the vaccine is recommended for all children unless your doctor tells you that your child cannot safely receive the vaccine.



These shaded boxes indicate the vaccine should be given if a child is catching-up on missed vaccines.



These shaded boxes indicate the vaccine is recommended for children with certain health or lifestyle conditions that put them at an increased risk for serious diseases. See vaccine-specific recommendations at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html)



This shaded box indicates the vaccine is recommended for children not at increased risk but who wish to get the vaccine after speaking to a provider.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

American Academy of Pediatrics  
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## Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and the Vaccines that Prevent Them

### **Diphtheria** (Can be prevented by Tdap vaccination)

Diphtheria is a very contagious bacterial disease that affects the respiratory system, including the lungs. Diphtheria bacteria can be passed from person to person by direct contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze. When people are infected, the diphtheria bacteria produce a toxin (poison) in the body that can cause weakness, sore throat, fever, and swollen glands in the neck. Effects from this toxin can also lead to swelling of the heart muscle and, in some cases, heart failure. In serious cases, the illness can cause coma, paralysis, and even death.

### **Hepatitis A** (Can be prevented by HepA vaccination)

Hepatitis A is an infection in the liver caused by hepatitis A virus. The virus is spread primarily person-to-person through the fecal-oral route. In other words, the virus is taken in by mouth from contact with objects, food, or drinks contaminated by the feces (stool) of an infected person. Symptoms can include fever, tiredness, poor appetite, vomiting, stomach pain, and sometimes jaundice (when skin and eyes turn yellow). An infected person may have no symptoms, may have mild illness for a week or two, may have severe illness for several months, or may rarely develop liver failure and die from the infection. In the U.S., about 100 people a year die from hepatitis A.

### **Hepatitis B** (Can be prevented by HepB vaccination)

Hepatitis B causes a flu-like illness with loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, rashes, joint pain, and jaundice. Symptoms of acute hepatitis B include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, pain in joints and stomach, dark urine, grey-colored stools, and jaundice (when skin and eyes turn yellow).

### **Human Papillomavirus** (Can be prevented by HPV vaccination)

Human papillomavirus is a common virus. HPV is most common in people in their teens and early 20s. It is the major cause of cervical cancer in women and genital warts in women and men. The strains of HPV that cause cervical cancer and genital warts are spread during sex.

### **Influenza** (Can be prevented by annual flu vaccination)

Influenza is a highly contagious viral infection of the nose, throat, and lungs. The virus spreads easily through droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes and can cause mild to severe illness. Typical symptoms include a sudden high fever, chills, a dry cough, headache, runny nose, sore throat, and muscle and joint pain. Extreme fatigue can last from several days to weeks. Influenza may lead to hospitalization or even death, even among previously healthy children.

### **Measles** (Can be prevented by MMR vaccination)

Measles is one of the most contagious viral diseases. Measles virus is spread by direct contact with the airborne respiratory droplets of an infected person. Measles is so contagious that just being in the same room after a person who has measles has already

left can result in infection. Symptoms usually include a rash, fever, cough, and red, watery eyes. Fever can persist, rash can last for up to a week, and coughing can last about 10 days. Measles can also cause pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, or death.

### **Meningococcal Disease** (Can be prevented by meningococcal vaccination)

Meningococcal disease is caused by bacteria and is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis (infection around the brain and spinal cord) in children. The bacteria are spread through the exchange of nose and throat droplets, such as when coughing, sneezing or kissing. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light, confusion and sleepiness. Meningococcal bacteria also cause blood infections. About one of every ten people who get the disease dies from it. Survivors of meningococcal disease may lose their arms or legs, become deaf, have problems with their nervous systems, become developmentally disabled, or suffer seizures or strokes.

### **Mumps** (Can be prevented by MMR vaccination)

Mumps is an infectious disease caused by the mumps virus, which is spread in the air by a cough or sneeze from an infected person. A child can also get infected with mumps by coming in contact with a contaminated object, like a toy. The mumps virus causes swollen salivary glands under the ears or jaw, fever, muscle aches, tiredness, abdominal pain, and loss of appetite. Severe complications for children who get mumps are uncommon, but can include meningitis (infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord), encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), permanent hearing loss, or swelling of the testes, which rarely results in decreased fertility.

### **Pertussis** (Whooping Cough) (Can be prevented by Tdap vaccination)

Pertussis is caused by bacteria spread through direct contact with respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. In the beginning, symptoms of pertussis are similar to the common cold, including runny nose, sneezing, and cough. After 1-2 weeks, pertussis can cause spells of violent coughing and choking, making it hard to breathe, drink, or eat. This cough can last for weeks. Pertussis is most serious for babies, who can get pneumonia, have seizures, become brain damaged, or even die. About two-thirds of children under 1 year of age who get pertussis must be hospitalized.

### **Pneumococcal Disease** (Can be prevented by pneumococcal vaccination)

Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs that can be caused by the bacteria called pneumococcus. This bacteria can cause other types of infections too, such as ear infections, sinus infections, meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), bacteremia and sepsis (blood stream infection). Sinus and ear infections are usually mild and are much more common than the more serious forms of pneumococcal disease. However, in

some cases pneumococcal disease can be fatal or result in long-term problems, like brain damage, hearing loss and limb loss. Pneumococcal disease spreads when people cough or sneeze. Many people have the bacteria in their nose or throat at one time or another without being ill—this is known as being a carrier.

### **Polio** (Can be prevented by IPV vaccination)

Polio is caused by a virus that lives in an infected person's throat and intestines. It spreads through contact with the stool of an infected person and through droplets from a sneeze or cough. Symptoms typically include sore throat, fever, tiredness, nausea, headache, or stomach pain. In about 1% of cases, polio can cause paralysis. Among those who are paralyzed, about 2 to 10 children out of 100 die because the virus affects the muscles that help them breathe.

### **Rubella** (German Measles) (Can be prevented by MMR vaccination)

Rubella is caused by a virus that is spread through coughing and sneezing. In children rubella usually causes a mild illness with fever, swollen glands, and a rash that lasts about 3 days. Rubella rarely causes serious illness or complications in children, but can be very serious to a baby in the womb. If a pregnant woman is infected, the result to the baby can be devastating, including miscarriage, serious heart defects, mental retardation and loss of hearing and eye sight.

### **Tetanus** (Lockjaw) (Can be prevented by Tdap vaccination)

Tetanus is caused by bacteria found in soil, dust, and manure. The bacteria enters the body through a puncture, cut, or sore on the skin. When people are infected, the bacteria produce a toxin (poison) that causes muscles to become tight, which is very painful. Tetanus mainly affects the neck and belly. This can lead to "locking" of the jaw so a person cannot open his or her mouth, swallow, or breathe. Complete recovery from tetanus can take months. One out of five people who get tetanus die from the disease.

### **Varicella** (Chickenpox) (Can be prevented by varicella vaccination)

Chickenpox is caused by the varicella zoster virus. Chickenpox is very contagious and spreads very easily from infected people. The virus can spread from either a cough, sneeze. It can also spread from the blisters on the skin, either by touching them or by breathing in these viral particles. Typical symptoms of chickenpox include an itchy rash with blisters, tiredness, headache and fever. Chickenpox is usually mild, but it can lead to severe skin infections, pneumonia, encephalitis (brain swelling), or even death.

If you have any questions about your child's vaccines, talk to your healthcare provider.