

Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
OPPONENT Testimony--HB2263
8 March 2023

Dear Chairwoman Gossage, Vice Chair Erickson, Ranking Minority Pettey, and Distinguished Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

I stand in firm opposition to HB 2263 as it gives authority to an under-trained amateur to give influenza vaccines to members of the public in the name of convenience. In the bill's language, it cites that there is a small bit of training involved and certifications are required, but I'd like to give a different perspective.

My first job in high school was working in a pharmacy. After I graduated, I became a Certified Pharmacy Technician in Kansas. While I had chosen to take college classes like Microbiology, Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Terminology, Chemistry, and Clinical Pharmacology, none of my fellow Certified Pharmacy Technicians had taken these classes. The pharmacies I worked in trained their techs right off the street with zero background in anything medical. I was a teenager when the State issued my certification, and if I had taken a trite class on protocols, injection techniques, and CPR in case of an allergic reaction or heart attack, I still wouldn't have been mature enough to be a professional to take someone's life into my own hands. It is irresponsible to pass this legislation that puts 6 year olds to elderly into the care of a barely-trained pharmacy technician. That's pressure that should not be allowed on an uneducated lay person. My life experience was so limited that recognizing signs of breathing struggles, heart attacks, sudden onset blood sugar issues, and other reactions would've been nearly impossible--a risk NOT worth taking.

Additionally, I believe it's a liability for that person administering vaccines if the patient dies of anaphylactic reaction. Perhaps the larger pharmacies cover their staff, but do the younger pharmacies have liability for this kind of thing? Is that a requirement, and does insurance cover lay-people like pharmacy technicians? You can legislate to help businesses profit, but if insurance thinks its a risk NOT worth taking/insuring, you're wasting your time and efforts.

We've seen corners be cut to save a buck, or save some minutes, but when we've seen people have severe reactions to flu vaccines, why wouldn't we want to ensure that ONLY well-trained pharmacists, nurses, or physicians can administer them and monitor patients clinically in the immediate time afterward? I've heard far too many horror stories of lay people in other states skipping asking questions like, "Do you have a fever?" or, "Do you have an egg allergy?" or, "Have you ever had a reaction to a flu shot before?" and several minor and severe reactions could've been avoided.

For some, their life hangs in the balance of having an educated, experienced clinician or professional administering their vaccines. Let's protect patients AND pharmacy technicians by NOT supporting HB 2263.

Please vote NO to HB 2263.

Thank you,

Melissa Campbell
Senate District 9