

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate District N

Senate Bill 71 Pharmacists and Immunization

Sponsor Statement

Currently, Alaska pharmacists require oversight by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner to oversee their immunization authority. SB 71 will give already-trained and certified pharmacists authority to immunize Alaska adults and children without having to contract with often hard-to-find doctors/nurse practitioners to oversee their immunization programs.

This bill will particularly help rural pharmacies increase their reach to populations who often see their pharmacist more often than a medical professional. Consumers would enjoy more flexibility with their schedules and cost savings by being able to access their local pharmacist for crucial immunizations.

SB 71 expands authority for Alaska pharmacists to independently administer all vaccines and would reduce burdensome collaborative practice agreements. Studies have shown that states in which pharmacists are granted broad authority to administer vaccines have higher immunization rates.

In 2013 Alaskan pharmacists administered over 13,000 flu vaccines and this legislation would significantly improve access to additional vaccinations and public health as a result. I ask for your support to expand the authority of pharmacists to independently administer vaccinations.

[Senator Cathy Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator_Cathy_Giessel@akleg.gov)