



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

March 13, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel
Vice-Chair Senator Health and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, Alaska

RE: Senate Bill 71-Pharmacists independent immunizations

Dear Senator Giessel,

On behalf of the members of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), I would like to thank you for sponsoring legislation to allow pharmacists to independently prescribe and administer immunizations in the State of Alaska. NACDS members in Alaska operate 62 pharmacies, employ over 7,400 full and part-time employees and pay over \$8 million a year in state taxes.

In 2012, only 1.2% of Alaskans were immunized for influenza, ranking 49th out of 51 in the country. Pharmacists receive training and a certificate in the prescribing and administering of all the immunizations approved by the CDC down to the age of three through a CDC approved training program provided through the American Pharmacists Association. Pharmacy students also have immunization training and receive a certificate as part of their curriculum. As part of their education, pharmacists also trained to deal with any potential adverse reactions. In addition, pharmacists can receive special training to administer travel vaccines such as yellow fever for which they will need a Department of Health certificate.

In 2013 over 17,800 immunizations were administered in community pharmacies (Data are from Source ® PHAST Prescription Monthly, calendar year 2013). We are encouraged by Senate Bill 71 that many additional, needed vaccines will be administered in local boroughs and villages by pharmacists to patients and families that may otherwise go unimmunized. We believe by removing the collaborative agreement requirement we will be able to streamline the administration of vaccines.

We appreciate your work on behalf of retail, community pharmacy and ask for quick passage of this very important legislation.

Sincerely,
Lis Houchen
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