

March 23, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Giessel:

RE: Senate Bill 71: Pharmacists and Vaccines

Thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill 71. As a community pharmacist who has practiced in Alaska for over 40 years, I am very supportive of allowing pharmacists, with the proper training and certification, to administer immunizations without the oversight of a medical doctor or nurse practitioner. Since many of us work in community pharmacies that are open in the evening and on weekends, we are accessible and available. Also, we see patients more often than other practitioners because they return to the pharmacy to refill their prescriptions, shop for health care sundries, or, perhaps, just come to visit or seek advice. We can encourage them to receive their necessary immunizations and administer them immediately if needed. By allowing pharmacists to independently administer vaccines, more pharmacies will offer the service to their patients and more Alaskans will be immunized.

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