



# Alaska Pharmacists Association

March 13, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel  
State Capitol Room 427  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 71

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing in support of SB 71, “ An act relating to the practice of pharmacy; and relating to the administration of vaccines and related emergency medications.” SB 71 will give already-trained and certified pharmacists the authority to immunize Alaska adults and children without having to contract with doctors/nurses to oversee their immunization programs.

Currently, immunizing pharmacists in Alaska must operate under collaborative practice (CP) agreements approved by the Board of Pharmacy with a prescribing practitioner. SB 71 expands the authority for Alaskan pharmacists to independently administer all vaccines under the standards set forth by the Board of Pharmacy. SB 71 would also reduce the burdensome paperwork required with the current CP agreements. Alaska citizens have some of the lowest immunization rates in the entire country. Studies have shown that in States in which pharmacists are granted broader authority to administer vaccines have higher immunization rates.

As you are aware, immunizations offer a means by which the State of Alaska can not only keep its citizens healthier but also as to reduce healthcare costs. The Center of Disease Control has indicated that every \$1 spent on immunizations saves over \$10 in direct and indirect costs. This is especially important in light of Alaska’s current negative fiscal situation.

Alaskan pharmacists are highly educated, trained professionals that have unique access to a large segment of the population as well as in rural areas of Alaska. Additionally, pharmacies offer greater access to immunizations during evening, weekend and holiday hours than other office based providers.

Our association is grateful for your advocacy on this important issue. Please feel free to contact me or the association office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Daniel Nelson  
President AKPhA

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