

Dear Sen. Murphy:

I am writing in support of HF1197/SF1176 for the 2024 legislature.

As a concerned primary care physician for Minnesota's pediatric patients, I believe that pharmacists in Minnesota should be able to continue to vaccinate Minnesota's youth from the age of 3 years and older, as they have been doing since 2020. Childhood vaccinations are crucial for preventing many life-threatening diseases and can potentially save the lives of many children. However, access to these vital services can be challenging. Some families live in underserved areas or may have to travel a distance to find a clinic. Community pharmacies are often the closest and most convenient way to access vaccines. By allowing pharmacies in Minnesota to vaccinate children, we can increase accessibility and ensure more children receive essential life-saving vaccinations. At the same time, pharmacists can actively help us connect families to a primary pediatric care by stressing the importance of well child visits with families as they come in for vaccines.

Making sure that Minnesota law provides pharmacists with the same authorities they have been practicing under since July of 2020 must be a priority this year. If the Legislature does not act this year, these authorities will go away Dec. 31st, 2024 and the public health of Minnesota will suffer.

Therefore, I call upon our legislators in the Minnesota State Legislature and relevant healthcare authorities to empower pharmacists, trained pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns across our state with the ability to administer childhood vaccinations and encourage child wellness visits to pediatric primary care providers.

Kind regards,
Andrew Lyman-Buttler, MD, M.Ed