



February 14, 2024

Dear Representative Bahner and Senator Hoffman;

The Minnesota Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) Coalition and the Minnesota Nurse Practitioners (MNNP) organization heartily endorse **HF 1197/SF 1176**, which will allow licensed pharmacist to continue to vaccinate Minnesota's youth patients from the age of 3 years and older, as they have been doing since 2020. According to the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC), vaccines have reduced or eliminated many infectious diseases that once routinely killed or harmed infants, children, and adults. However, access to these vital services can be challenging in certain circumstances.

In Minnesota specifically, there are unique challenges to immunization access. Some families live in underserved areas or may have to travel a distance to find a clinic. Community pharmacies are often the closets and more convenient way to access healthcare and vaccines. Community pharmacies provide improved access and convenience that meet patients' needs. 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 to connect families to a primary care pediatric provider.

Making sure that Minnesota law provides pharmacists with the same authority 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 December 31st, 2024, and the public health of Minnesota will suffer. Providing Minnesota pharmacists with the authority to continue the vaccination and testing services that over 5 million Minnesotans since the Pandemic have already received is crucial to protecting our public health into the future. The change will not only improve individual health but also contribute significantly to community health by ensuring that enough people will be immunized to prevent the spread of disease within a community.

We appreciate both of your leadership in this important public health effort.

Sincerely,

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President
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