

Minnesota Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MINNESOTA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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February 20, 2024

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Health Finance and Policy Committee,

As President of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing on behalf of the over 1,000 pediatricians in Minnesota to share concerns with the language on line 2.19 of the bill, altering the age at which pharmacists, and if this bill passes, pharmacist technicians, can administer vaccinations.

This section of the bill would have serious unintended consequences. Though MNAAP appreciates what we think is an intention of the legislation to increase vaccination rates in Minnesota, it cannot come at the cost of well-child visits or check-ups with a physician.

Under current law, children go to their pediatrician for their vaccinations, for good reason. Pediatric offices are where physicians have specialty training to identify important issues such as delayed development, weight concerns such as obesity, inadequate weight gain, or failure to thrive, vision and hearing screening, as well as assess for child abuse or neglect. These important health issues are time-sensitive and missing them does a severe disservice to the children of Minnesota. If they can get their vaccinations from a pharmacist or pharmacist technician, well-child visits and check-up visits with a physician will decrease and the opportunity to identify health issues early, when they are most amenable to intervention, is missed.

Additionally, almost no pharmacies in Minnesota participate in the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program, which provides vaccine cost coverage for our most vulnerable young Minnesotans. This will add a heavy financial burden on the families who can least afford it.

This section of the bill was not written with the best intention for our patients – Minnesota's children. MNAAP respectfully requests that this section of the bill is removed, and the laws regarding the age at which pharmacists can administer vaccinations remain unchanged.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen Crespo".

Eileen Crespo, MD, FAAP

President, Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics