



February 19, 2024

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), the state's professional association of physicians, residents, and medical students, I write to share the MMA's concerns with SF 1176, a bill related to pharmacist and pharmacy technician scope of practice.

SF 1176 would allow pharmacists and pharmacy technicians administer all vaccinations to children aged 3 and older. Currently, they are allowed to administer flu and COVID vaccines to age 6+, and most others are age 13+. The proposal in this bill is a very aggressive change and will have negative overall health impacts on Minnesota's children.

The MMA has long advocated for efforts that could lead to more vaccinations, but there are serious unintended consequences with the proposed change. This bill will lead to fewer well child visits and check-ups with a physician. Since children get most of their required vaccinations from their pediatrician, they usually conduct a well child visit then, too. If this language becomes law, there will be increased rates of undiagnosed developmental issues and unreported cases of neglect or abuse, among other negative outcomes associated with decreased well child visits and check-ups with a physician.

We respectfully urge you to remove the section of SF 1176 that changes the age at which a pharmacist or pharmacist technician can administer vaccinations. The unintended consequences will be too widespread and severe, and will harm our youngest Minnesotans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurel Ries, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association