



Support HF 1197/SF 1176 to Continue Trusted Patient Immunization & Testing Access at Minnesota Pharmacies

Minnesota's pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have been on the frontline of immunization and testing since the start of the COVID pandemic. **Unfortunately, patient access to immunization and testing services will revert to pre-pandemic status after Dec. 31 when the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) Declarations under the PREP Act expire.** Please support [HF 1197/SF 1176](#) to permanently allow patients access to their current immunization and testing service options at Minnesota's pharmacies.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the challenges within the traditional healthcare system, and **also proved pharmacies can provide Minnesotans with convenient, safe, and affordable patient-driven access to care.** To meet public health needs during the pandemic, pharmacies quickly pivoted and stood up the infrastructure needed across Minnesota to meet that immunization needs of families, including a full range of childhood vaccines.

Since January 2021, Minnesota's families have received millions of vaccines at their community pharmacies. In order to meet patient needs, pharmacies invested in their pharmacy technician workforce, including providing technicians the opportunity to obtain accredited immunization training. Without pharmacy technicians' efforts, it would have been extremely difficult for Minnesota to meet the demand for care, especially in underserved areas of Minnesota. Continuing technicians' ability to utilize their training and skills is essential to patient care and vital to the state's healthcare workforce going forward.

[HF 1197/SF 1176](#) aligns with the trust Minnesotans have in services at pharmacies. In a survey commissioned by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores and conducted by Morning Consult December 7-12, 2022, **87% of Minnesotans said pharmacies are very easy or somewhat easy to access and 84% of Minnesotans support pharmacists administering routine vaccinations.**

Please support [HF 1197/SF 1176](#) to continue your constituents' continued access to immunizations and testing services at their local pharmacy, while maintaining expanded healthcare access and equity across Minnesota.