

**SCR 212**

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF PHARMACY**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 22, 2010  
2:45 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 212 AND SENATE  
RESOLUTION NO. 108 – REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE  
TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF LOWERING THE AGE OF PHARMACY-  
ADMINISTERED VACCINATION RECIPIENTS TO NINE YEARS OLD.**

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Dr. Elwin Goo, Chair of the Board of Pharmacy ("Board") and I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on S.C.R. No. 212 and S.R. No. 108.

At its March 18, 2010 meeting, the Board of Pharmacy reviewed and discussed S.C.R. No. 212 and S.R. No. 108, both entitled "Requesting the Establishment of a Task Force to Examine the Feasibility of Lowering the Age of Pharmacy-Administered Vaccination Recipients to Nine Years Old" as well as H.B. No. 2464, H.D.2, S.D.1, "Relating to Practice of Pharmacy", that establishes a temporary task force to be called the Pharmacy-Administered Vaccinations to Minors Task Force. Substantively the proposals are very similar as to their overall objectives and the stakeholders to be involved. The Board however, prefers the language in H.B. No. 2464, H.D.2, S.D.1 and with the following suggested amendments:

On page 1, line 10, we respectfully request that two pharmacists be from "chain store pharmacies" as determined by the task force instead of listing "Walgreens" and "Long's Drugs" specifically. This will allow the task force to select pharmacists from a

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"chain store" who may be interested in providing such services as opposed to a chain store who may not wish to participate in such a program.

On page 1, line 11, we respectfully request that instead of one representative from an independent pharmacy, that there be two "pharmacists" from two independent pharmacies. We believe this issue will have an impact on the independent pharmacies as well as the chain store pharmacies and that they should be equally represented.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. No. 212 and S.R. No. 108.



March 21, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: SCR 212/SR 108 – Requesting the Establishment of a Task Force to Examine the Feasibility of Lowering the Age of Pharmacy-Administered Vaccination Recipients to Nine Years Old**

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee on Health:

I am Mihoko Ito, an attorney with Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, testifying on behalf of Walgreen Co. (“Walgreens”). Walgreens operates and offers immunization services in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. To date, this program has allowed Walgreens to provide over 1.6 million H1N1 vaccines across the country. In Hawai‘i, Walgreens now has 9 stores on the islands of Maui and Oahu.

**Walgreens supports SCR 212 and SR 108.** These resolutions establish a task force to examine the feasibility of lowering the age of pharmacy-administered vaccination recipients to nine years old.

While we ultimately support the lowering of the age restrictions to age 9 for pharmacist-administered vaccines, we also support the passage of these resolutions, as we believe that increasing access to vaccines is an important public issue that should be fully considered and analyzed by the interested stakeholders.

Allowing pharmacists to administer vaccinations is a low-cost and convenient way to meet an important public health need. Studies have shown that in states in which pharmacists are allowed to administer vaccines, the vaccine coverage rates are increased for the target population.

Pharmacists are required to receive specialized training to administer vaccinations. Presently, Walgreens pharmacists who participate in vaccine programs go through a “Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery” certificate training program offered by the American Pharmacists Association and recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or a state approved equivalent program. In addition to immunization training, all participating pharmacists are required to become certified in adult and child CPR and take OSHA blood-borne pathogens training. These programs include training to administer vaccines for children nine years of age and older.

Walgreens believes that, given proper training and certification for pharmacists, lowering the age restrictions for pharmacist-administered vaccines will improve access to life-saving vaccines and serve as a valuable preventative tool. It would also allow for a quick and effective response to vaccinate a large number of people in the event of a public health emergency in Hawai‘i.

*Walgreen Co. Government and Community Relations 104 Wilmot Road, MS 1444 Deerfield, IL 60015  
847-315-4653 FAX 847-315-4417 www.walgreens.com*

Walgreens respectfully requests that the Committee pass these resolutions. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.



*Hawaii Pharmacists*  
Association

Monday, March 22, 2010  
2:45PM  
Conference Room 016  
State Capitol

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

From: The Officers and Board of Directors  
of the Hawaii Pharmacists Association

Re: **SCR 212 and SR 108**  
REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY  
OF LOWERING THE AGE OF PHARMACY-ADMINISTERED VACCINATION RECIPIENTS TO  
NINE YEARS OLD

Dear Chair Senator Ige, Vice Chair Dr. Green, and members of the committee of health:

The Hawaii Pharmacists Association (HPhA) represents a membership of diverse pharmacist practice settings in the state of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Pharmacists Association has been providing training and certification for the American Pharmacist Association's certificate program, "Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery" since June of 2003. HPhA has since certified and trained many of the certified pharmacists currently practicing in the state of Hawaii.

We have reviewed SCR 212 and SR 108 and request that a representative from the Hawaii Pharmacists Association be a member of the task force due to the fact that we have a significant role in providing the certificate training for registered pharmacists throughout the state of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration to our request.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CHAIN DRUG STORES

March 22, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: SCR 212/SR 108 – Requesting the Establishment of a Task Force to Examine the Feasibility of Lowering the Age of Pharmacy-Administered Vaccination Recipients to Nine Years Old**

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee on Health:

On behalf of the members of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) operating in Hawaii, I ask you to pass SCR 212 and SR 108, and pass Senate bill 2390. The members of NACDS operating in Hawaii include: Costco, Longs (CVS), PharmaCare, Kmart (Sears), Times Supermarket, Walgreen and Wal-Mart. Our members operate 68 stores, employ 8,480 full and part-time employees and pay in excess of \$142 million in state and local taxes.

**NACDS supports SCR 212 and SR 108.** These resolutions establish a task force to examine the feasibility of lowering the age of pharmacy-administered vaccination recipients to nine years old.

In addition to passing SCR 212 and SR 108, I would strongly urge the committee to work with the members of the House and Senate to pass Senate Bill 2390, which would give pharmacists the ability to immunize children nine years of age or older. Seventeen other states allow pharmacists to vaccinate anyone at any age. And still other states put parameters around parental consent, which you include in your own SB 2390.

By virtue of their education, pharmacists are highly educated healthcare professionals who are trained in the intricacies of proper medication use and administration. The six year pharmacy curriculum which results in a Doctor of Pharmacy degree focuses extensively preparing pharmacists to provide, assess and coordinate safe, accurate and time-sensitive medication distribution and to improve outcomes through pharmaceutical care. **Beyond their extensive education, pharmacists who wish to administer immunizations in their practice must further complete an education and training program designed to teach the skills necessary to properly administer vaccines to patients.** These programs teach the basics of immunology and focus on implementing the skills and knowledge regarding safe and effective vaccine administration into the pharmacist's practice.

Despite the availability of effective immunizations, many Americans remain unvaccinated and susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases. An Institute of Medicine

Report estimates that more than 300 children in the United States die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases or their complications.<sup>i</sup> However, the United States Department of Health and Human Services has found that immunizations, including those administered by pharmacists, help prevent 14 million cases of disease and 33,000 deaths yearly.<sup>ii</sup>

Immunizations are the best defense against morbidity and mortality for diseases for which vaccines are available. Studies have shown that pharmacist provided immunization services increase the overall immunization rates including physician-administered vaccinations.<sup>iii</sup> By allowing pharmacists in Kansas to provide immunizations services to children in Kansas, this could lead to increased childhood vaccination rates throughout the state.

Community pharmacies play a key role in providing easily accessible, convenient, and cost effective immunizations services. These factors could encourage busy parents, who might otherwise not go through the trouble of scheduling an appointment for certain vaccines, to do so and may consequently serve reduce the number of inadequately vaccinated children.

Community pharmacies provide patients with easily accessible, convenient and cost effective locations for immunization services without the need for the cost of a physician visit. There are 134 community pharmacies in the State of Hawaii that are open on weekends and evenings making it convenient for patients and they offer these services without the need for an appointment.

I respectfully request that the language in Senate Bill 2390 be amended to read:

Part II. Section 4. Subsection (2) (E) Administering immunizations orally, by injection, or by intranasal delivery, to persons at least nine years of age with parental consent and contingent upon the governor's determination of a public health necessity or eighteen years of age or older, by a pharmacist having appropriate training that includes programs approved by the ACPE, curriculum-based programs from an ACPE-accredited college of pharmacy, state or local health department programs, or programs recognized by the board of pharmacy;

By allowing trained pharmacists to administer vaccinations to those at least nine years of age, you will go a long way toward improving the health and welfare of the citizens of Hawaii and allow the children of Hawaii to grow up without the threat of contracting unnecessary diseases.

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<sup>i</sup> Institute of Medicine Report. Shaping the Future For Health – Calling the Shots – Immunization Finance Policies and Practice. [http://books.nap.edu/html/calling\\_the\\_shots/reportbrief.pdf](http://books.nap.edu/html/calling_the_shots/reportbrief.pdf)



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<sup>ii</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, Fiscal Year 2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Justification of Estimates for Appropriation Committees*.

Available:[http://www.317coalition.org/documents/cdc\\_fy2008budget\\_immunization.pdf](http://www.317coalition.org/documents/cdc_fy2008budget_immunization.pdf).

<sup>iii</sup> Field RI. Pharmacists set to become more active clinicians in Pennsylvania. *P & T*.

2006;31:100,105; Jelesiewicz E. Pennsylvania pharmacists could soon be "calling the shots."

*Temple Times* (online edition). March 17, 2005. Available at: [www.](http://www.temple.edu/temple_times/3-17-05/pharmacy.html)

[temple.edu/temple\\_times/3-17-05/pharmacy.html](http://www.temple.edu/temple_times/3-17-05/pharmacy.html).

The members of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores stand ready to work with the legislature on this issue and respectfully ask you to seriously consider this request to improve patient outcomes through more convenient access to immunizations.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



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State Government Affairs  
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