



Patient access to vaccines at community pharmacies by voting YES on HB 1105 by Sen. Pete Flores and Rep. Four Price. Healthcare provider and patient groups representing patients throughout Texas and across the country strongly support HB 1105, critical legislation that will protect Texans' ability to continue to receive vaccine services at pharmacies.

Patients need lawmakers to modernize Texas law to make it easier for Texans to access vaccine services at pharmacies by aligning with the recent temporary federal policies. In recent years, temporary authorities granted to pharmacy personnel under the federal PREP Act under the last two Administrations have allowed pharmacies in Texas to deliver vaccine services for flu, COVID and other ACIP recommended vaccines to individuals 3 years and older without a prescription from another healthcare provider. While current Texas law allows pharmacists to administer vaccines to all Texans, a prescription from another healthcare provider is required for flu vaccines to patients younger seven years and for any other vaccines for patients younger than 14 years even though flu vaccine is recommended for all ages 6 months and older. This bill would maintain the simpler processes of the PREP Act authorizations, that have proven safe and effective, updating Texas law to recognize pharmacists' authority to order and administer vaccines to children 3 years and older without a prescription from another healthcare provider. Ultimately, this will make it easier for individuals who prefer to use their community pharmacy's vaccine services to do so.

Patients want the continued option to go to their local pharmacy for needed vaccines. In fact, a recent poll commissioned by NACDS and conducted by Morning Consult December 7-12, 2022, found **61% of Texans want to keep the policies in place** that have made it easier to access vaccine services at their pharmacy.

Pharmacies are an essential access point for patients in medically underserved communities to access vaccine services. Although this bill would not take the place of the important patient-physician relationship, it is notable that many Texans in rural areas and inner-city communities have limited access to primary care providers, making it difficult for these individuals to get needed vaccines. Providing communities in Texas with robust access to recommended vaccine services via community pharmacies, consistent with the current allowances authorized by the federal government, will offer far greater access to preventive health care and ensure the health and well-being of all Texans.

Making vaccines more readily available in community pharmacies helps to improve health outcomes, access, and equity. Importantly, the experience of the last few years has amplified the critical role of pharmacies in connecting racial and ethnic minority groups who are otherwise more likely to experience access barriers to vaccine services. Remarkably, pharmacies have administered more than 303 million COVID vaccinations, with more than 40% of individuals vaccinated against COVID at pharmacies being from racial and ethnic minority groups. The pharmacy community continues to lead the way to provide needed care to medically underserved communities and to individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups that experience greater access barriers to healthcare services.

To help ensure that the people of Texas can continue to receive the level of care they now expect from their pharmacy, please vote in support of HB 1105.

American Pharmacists Association
Chronic Care Coalition
Food Industry Association
Hispanic Business Alliance
International Foundation for Autoimmune
& Autoinflammatory Arthritis

Immune Deficiency Foundation
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
National Community Pharmacy Association
National Pharmaceutical Association