

April 1, 2025

Chair Lois Kolkhorst
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Sam Houston Building, 420

Via email: lois.kolkhorst@senate.texas.gov

Dear Chair Kolkhorst,

The undersigned organizations write to express support for [TX SB 254](#), legislation that will help improve access to vaccines in pharmacies.

Importantly, this legislation would simplify access to pharmacy vaccine services for Texas families, authorizing pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to administer immunizations recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (CDC/ACIP) or authorized or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Vaccination is an essential part in maintaining the health and well-being of Texans by reducing the risk of illness, disability, and death due to vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines are the best defense against serious diseases, including influenza (flu), RSV, pneumonia, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), herpes zoster (shingles), HPV, meningitis, Covid-19, and hepatitis A and B. Immunization rates have dipped in recent years for all demographics. One way we can change this is by building strong health infrastructure.

Throughout Texas, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians play an instrumental role in expanding access to vaccination, especially in low-income and rural communities. At the same time, it will reduce health-care costs and save lives.

Pharmacists are already a valuable member of patients' health teams, because they are convenient, accessible and trusted. Traditionally pharmacies have longer hours of operation, including being open in the evenings and on weekends, making them easier to reach for Texans whose work schedules are not flexible. In fact, 9 out of 10 Americans live within 5 miles of a pharmacy.

Bolstered by the temporary pharmacy federal flexibilities granted in 2020, there has been a significant number of patients in the U.S. receiving their vaccinations at pharmacies. We ask the legislature to act now to pass SB254 to simplify access to vaccines administered by

pharmacy personnel so Texans can continue to have adequate access and choice to vaccination health care destinations within their communities.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Disease Prevention Coalition (ADPC)
American Pharmacists Association
Autism Society of Texas
Families Fighting Flu
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hep B United
Immune Deficiency Foundation
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)
National Community Pharmacists Association
National Pharmaceutical Association
Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute
Texas Federation of Drug Stores
Texas Pharmacy Association
Texas School Nurses Organization
The Immunization Partnership

Cc:

Sen. Peter Flores

Members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee