



MIKE ROHRKASTE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 55TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Bill 252/Senate Bill 172
Relating to: administration of vaccines by pharmacy students
Testimony of State Representative Mike Rohrkaste
Assembly Committee on Health
April 26th, 2017

Thank you, Chair Sanfelippo and members of the Assembly Committee on Health for holding this public hearing.

Assembly Bill 252 and Senate Bill 172 would allow a pharmacy student who has completed their second year at an accredited pharmacy school and has completed a specific training course in administration technique to administer a vaccine to a person aged six years and older under the direct supervision of a pharmacist.

Currently, pharmacy students are only able to provide immunizations to individuals aged 18 years and older. Pharmacists, on the other hand, are authorized to immunize individuals aged 6 years and older. Therefore, current law restricts the ability of pharmacy students to prepare and learn how to become a pharmacist immunizer. This legislation will allow pharmacy students the opportunity to develop pharmacist skills and will improve the self-confidence of students prior to entering the pharmacy field.

As of right now, 44 states allow pharmacy students to provide immunizations to individuals, and 41 of those states allow students to immunize the same individuals as pharmacists. Currently, Wisconsin has around 500 pharmacy students who would be able to provide these immunizations, and this legislation would allow them to gain valuable training while at the same time maintaining the high standards to which Wisconsin holds our medical professionals.

This bill is supported by the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin, Concordia University, the Medical College of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards, the Wisconsin Public Health Association, the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians and Hometown Pharmacy Partnerships. I respectfully ask the members of this committee to join them in support of this legislation, and recommend the passage of this bill.

Thank you for your time.



PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: April 26th, 2017
RE: **Testimony on 2017 AB 252 and SB 172**
TO: The Assembly Committee on Health
FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

Chairman Sanfelippo and members of the committee, thank you for accepting my testimony on behalf of Assembly Bill 252 and Senate Bill 172. This bill would enable pharmacy interns who have completed at least two years of pharmacy school to immunize persons over the age of six with the supervision of a licensed pharmacist.

Current law allows pharmacy interns to immunize patients over the age of 18, but does not allow them to immunize children, creating an experience gap that young pharmacists are left to overcome on their own. Reason dictates that it is better for an intern to gain experience while under the supervision of an experienced professional, as opposed to encountering new medical situations on their own.

Furthermore, Wisconsin is one of a handful of states that currently has this prohibition. Forty-four states allow pharmacy interns to immunize, and of those, forty-one allow their interns to immunize the same age ranges as their pharmacists. It is time for Wisconsin to join the majority, and enable the nearly 500 pharmacy students who would be affected by this law to have access to a full gamut of experiential training.

This bill is supported by Concordia University, the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians. I ask the members of the committee to join them, and recommend this bill for passage. Thank you.



One Voice. One Vision.

DATE: April 26, 2017
TO: Representative Joe Sanfelippo, Chairman
Members, Assembly Committee on Health
FROM: Danielle M. Laurent, MPH
Director, Public Affairs
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin
SUBJECT: AB 252 relating to: administration of vaccines by pharmacy students

Thank you, Chairman Sanfelippo and Committee, for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 252, relating to the administration of vaccines by pharmacy students. The Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin appreciates the work of the bill authors, Senator Testin and Representative Rohrkaste, in bringing forth this bill, which would allow pharmacist students to immunize patients of the same age as licensed pharmacists.

Currently in Wisconsin, pharmacists may immunize any patient age 6 and older, but pharmacy students are only able to immunize patients aged 18 and older. Because of this difference, pharmacy interns are only gaining practical experience immunizing adults, despite the very real possibility that they will be asked to immunize a child once they are a licensed pharmacist.

This bill would allow pharmacy interns to immunize patients age 6 and older – the same age allowed for a licensed pharmacist. By allowing pharmacy students to gain this practical experience, they will be better prepared for their future role as a licensed pharmacist.

Under current law, and unchanged by this bill, a pharmacy student must complete at least two years of pharmacy school, an approved course in immunization administration, and be directly supervised by a licensed pharmacist who has also completed an approved course in immunization administration in order to immunize any patient. These safeguards will ensure patient safety by making certain that pharmacy interns are trained and supervised when providing an immunization.

Wisconsin is one of only three states that allows pharmacy students to immunize patients, but does not allow their pharmacy students to immunize patients of the same age as licensed pharmacists. This bill will provide pharmacy students the opportunity to gain practical experience in immunizing children, which develops their pharmacist skills and improves self-confidence.

On behalf of the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin, I encourage you to support this legislation which will allow students the opportunity to gain experiential training in immunizing children. Thank you again for allowing me to testify on this legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.

TO: Representative Joe Sanfelippo, Chair and Members of the Assembly Committee on Health

FROM: Gina Dennik-Champion, MSN, RN, MSHA
Executive Director, Wisconsin Nurses Association

DATE: April 26, 2017

RE: Support of AB 252 and the Companion Bill SB 172 - administration of vaccines by pharmacy students.

My name is Gina Dennik-Champion, I am a registered nurse and executive director of the Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA). WNA is the professional organization for which membership is open to any registered nurse in Wisconsin. Thank you, Chairperson Sanfelippo for holding a hearing on AB 252 which allows for the administration of vaccines to children six years old and older by pharmacy students. We also want to extend thanks to Representative Rohrkaste for sponsoring this legislation.

WNA advocates for access to comprehensive and coordinated health care services which enables all individuals to achieve optimal quality of life across the continuum. WNA strongly supports immunizations as they protect the public from highly communicable and deadly diseases such as measles, mumps, diphtheria, pertussis, and influenza. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccinations from birth through adulthood to provide a lifetime of protection against many diseases and infections. Immunizations have had an enormous impact on improving the health of children in the United States. Vaccination is one of the best ways parents can protect infants, children, and teens from 16 potentially harmful diseases. Vaccine-preventable diseases can be very serious, may require hospitalization, and can even be deadly – especially in infants and young children.

Although vaccination rates have increased, there continues to be barriers to adequate immunization. In their October 2013 paper, Hendriksz, Malouf, Sarmiento, and Foy described the barriers to getting children vaccinated. These barriers include lack of transportation, low income, underserved communities, no primary care provider, inconvenient health care provider office hours, and knowledge regarding vaccination schedules. One effort that is making a difference in Wisconsin that has increased the vaccination rates are the neighborhood and/or town pharmacies and a pharmacist certified to administer vaccinations to children.

Pharmacy students, like nursing students receive education and instruction in giving injections and other procedures for administering vaccines. These skill sets are an expected competency for all nursing students as well as the expectation that all nursing instructors are competent to teach and perform. The expectation that pharmacist can administer vaccinations by completing a certification course is relatively new compared to that of nursing. Because of these conditions, legislation allowing pharmacy students to administer vaccinations to children need to be adopted. WNA supports AB 252 and the Companion Bill SB 172 as it removes the barriers for pharmacy students to administer vaccinations to children six years of age and older. WNA believes that the requirements to administer a vaccination as called for in the legislative bills, AB 252 and SB 172, provide adequate safeguards to the child.

By supporting AB 252 and SB 172 we are supporting an important public health strategy as called for in Wisconsin State Statute Section 250.07(1)(a). This section requires a state health plan. The most recent plan, *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: Everyone Living Better, Longer* (2010, Wisconsin Department of Health Services), contains a section related to Communicable disease prevention and control. Objective 1 addresses vaccination; *Objective 1: By 2020, protect Wisconsin residents across the life span from vaccine-preventable disease through vaccinations recommended by the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)*. Given this objective, Wisconsin needs a competent health care workforce. It begins with appropriate education and training of the workforce. This workforce needs to include pharmacy students.

Thank you again, Chairperson Sanfelippo and the members of the Assembly Health Committee for reviewing WNA's perspective on this legislation. We ask that AB 252 be voted out of committee.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

References

Hendriksz, T. , Malouf, P.J., Sarmiento, S., & Foy, J.E. (2013). New emphasis on pediatric and adolescent vaccinations. *AOA Health Watch*, 8, 9-14.

Wisconsin Department of Health, Division of Public Health (2010). *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: Everyone Living Better, Longer, A State Health Plan to Improve Health Across the Life Span, and Eliminate Health Disparities and Achieve Health Equity*. 104. Madison, WI

DATE: April 26, 2017
TO: Representative Joe Sanfelippo, Chairman
Members, Assembly Committee on Health
FROM: Heather Stoner, DPH-3
President, Wisconsin Society of Pharmacy Students
SUBJECT: Testimony in Favor of Assembly Bill 252

Chairman Sanfelippo and committee members, thank you for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 252. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today.

My name is Heather Stoner and I am a third-year pharmacy student at UW-Madison School of Pharmacy, a pharmacy intern at CVS within Target Pharmacy, and the President of the Wisconsin Society of Pharmacy Students. I am here today testifying in favor of Assembly Bill 252, which would allow pharmacy student interns to immunize patients ages 6 and older.

Under current law, pharmacists may immunize any patient age 6 and older, yet pharmacy students may only immunize patients aged 18 and older. Unfortunately, this means that as an intern, I am only gaining practical experience in immunizing adults, yet as a licensed pharmacist I may be asked to immunize children with no practical experience and, potentially, no other pharmacist there to guide me through the process. Immunizing a child can be different than immunizing an adult – the body is smaller and they are frequently more agitated or emotional. During the meningitis B outbreak this past fall at UW-Madison, pharmacy students, along with nursing students, helped immunize over 20,000 undergraduates. However, when I volunteered I ran into a few students who were under the age of 18 and it slowed down the whole process of trying to make it convenient and vaccinate as many students as possible.

Under this bill, in order to immunize anyone, no matter the age, I will still be required to complete at least two years of pharmacy school, a course in immunization administration, and be directly supervised by a licensed pharmacist who has also completed an approved immunization course. These safeguards are in place to protect patient safety and to ensure that pharmacy interns are trained and supervised when providing an immunization.

This bill would give me and my fellow pharmacy students the experiential opportunity to immunize children, which fosters the development of pharmacist skills and improves self-confidence prior to entering the pharmacy profession. By limiting us to immunizing adults only, yet potentially needing to immunize a child in the future, our learning and preparedness is restricted.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of this legislation.

DATE: April 26, 2017
TO: Representative Joe Sanfelippo, Chairman
Members, Assembly Committee on Health
FROM: Drew Dretske DPH-1
Policy Liaison-Elect Wisconsin Society of Pharmacy Students
SUBJECT: Testimony in Favor of Assembly Bill 252

Representative Sanfelippo and committee members, I would like to thank you for allowing my fellow student pharmacists and me the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 252.

My name is Drew Dretske, and I am a 1st year pharmacy student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a student pharmacy technician at UW-Health, and future policy liaison for Wisconsin Society of Pharmacy Students. I am here today testifying in favor of Assembly Bill 252, which would allow pharmacy student interns to immunize patient's ages 6 and older under pharmacist supervision.

Under current law, pharmacists may immunize any patient older than six years of age; however, pharmacy interns may only immunize adults that are 18 and older. As a future pharmacy intern I will not be able to immunize this important and special patient population. Under current legislation current pharmacy interns and I are missing opportunities to learn from a highly qualified pharmacists that have completed all necessary training to safely immunize patients 6 years and older.

If statute 450.035 (2g) is amended it will ensure that the future practicing pharmacists of Wisconsin will have all the skills necessary to immunize patients that are 6 years or older. Pharmacy interns are prepared to immunize this patient population by successfully completing two years of coursework. This coursework provides an immunization class that is taught the 2nd semester of the second year. It should be noted that this is the last semester before pharmacy students are considered interns in the state of Wisconsin.

To ensure optimal safety for our patients and especially children and teens of this age group, pharmacists and pharmacy interns must have completed training requirements and follow a physician directed protocol. The pharmacy intern will also always be under direct supervision when providing the immunization to these patients.

As mentioned, this bill will provide an optimal learning environment for student pharmacists, provide patient safety, and prepare pharmacy interns to provide a service that current licensed pharmacists are able to provide.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of this legislation.

DATE: April 26, 2017
TO: Representative Joe Sanfelippo, Chairman
Members, Assembly Committee on Health
FROM: Olivia Fahey, DPH-3
Policy Liaison, Wisconsin Society of Pharmacy Students
SUBJECT: Testimony in Favor of Assembly Bill 252

My name is Olivia Fahey and I am a third-year student pharmacist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy. I am here today testifying in favor of Assembly Bill 252, which would allow pharmacy student interns to immunize patients ages 6 and older.

Under current law, pharmacists licensed in Wisconsin can administer vaccines to patients aged 6 years and older. In addition, student pharmacists who have successfully completed two years of pharmacy school at an accredited school of pharmacy are authorized to perform duties related to the practice of pharmacy under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist, however these pharmacy interns are restricted to administering vaccines to adult patients aged 18 years and older. Regardless of the age of the patient, pharmacist and pharmacy intern immunizers are required to complete an approved immunization course. These safeguards have been designed to ensure patient safety while providing student pharmacist intern immunizers the opportunity to prepare to become a pharmacist immunizer. Limiting pharmacy interns to immunizing adult patients when the current scope of licensed pharmacists allows for the immunization of patients over the age of 6 restricts the experiential learning opportunities of student pharmacists.

This bill would allow myself and my fellow student pharmacists the opportunity to immunize children while still under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist before potentially having to immunize a child on my own with no practical experience. This is an important learning opportunity since children are frequently more emotional or agitated than adults when receiving vaccines, and their body is also smaller. Restricting pharmacy interns to immunizing only adults when we someday may need to immunize a child limits our learning and preparedness while training to become immunizing pharmacists.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of this legislation.