



PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: April 20th, 2017
RE: **Testimony on 2017 SB 172 and AB 252**
TO: The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

Chairwoman Vukmir and members of the committee, thank you for today's opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 172 and Assembly Bill 252. 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 by themselves. 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 the 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. Thanks again to Chairwoman Vukmir and the members of the committee for hearing my testimony on this legislation.



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
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
April 20th, 2017

Thank you, Chair Vukmir and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services 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 individuals the same ages 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, and the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians. 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.



One Voice. One Vision.

DATE: April 20, 2017
TO: Senator Leah Vukmir, Chairman
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
FROM: Danielle M. Laurent, MPH
Director, Public Affairs
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin
SUBJECT: SB 172 relating to: administration of vaccines by pharmacy students

Thank you, Chairman Vukmir and Committee, for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 172, 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.

DATE: April 20, 2017
TO: Senator Leah Vukmir, Chairman
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
FROM: Heather Stoner, DPH-3
President, Wisconsin Society of Pharmacy Students
SUBJECT: Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 172

Senator Vukmir and committee members, thank you for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 172. 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 Senate Bill 172, 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 slightly different than immunizing an adult – the body is smaller and they are frequently more agitated or emotional.

Under this bill, in order to immunize anyone, no matter the age, I will still be required to complete at least 2 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.