



The Kroger Co. Columbus Division, 4111 Executive Parkway, Westerville, OH 43081

April 16, 2024

The Honorable Al Cutrona, Chairman
House Health Provider Services Committee
Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Cutrona and members of the House Health Provider Services Committee,

I am writing to ask that the committee supports Senate Bill 144, restoring the immunization authority that existed during the COVID-19 pandemic health emergency.

As the pandemic highlighted, community pharmacy is one of the leading immunization providers for the residents of Ohio. We are the most convenient vaccine provider and a valuable vaccine partner to our health systems and primary care providers. Our pharmacy teams step up and help meet increasing vaccine demands with new vaccines and increased patient populations now eligible for vaccines.

Restoring the immunization authority we had during the pandemic will allow our great pharmacists, interns and technicians to continue to make a positive impact on protecting people from vaccine-preventable diseases and lower long-term healthcare costs for Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen C. Burson".

Stephen C. Burson, R.Ph.
Health & Wellness Leader
The Kroger Co. Columbus Division
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