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AN EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP COMPANY

www.discount-drugmart.com

The Stores That Save YOU The Runaround!

October 4, 2023

The Honorable Steve Huffman
Chairman - Ohio Senate Health Committee
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Huffman & Members of the Senate Health Committee:

We write this letter to urge your support of Senate Bill 144. The passage of Senate Bill 144 will make certain that Ohio's families will experience better health outcomes with expanded access to critical pharmacy services.

Specifically- Senate Bill 144 will allow pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer recommended vaccines to patients who are 5 years of age and older (as opposed to the current law age limit of 7 years of age or older). The language eliminates the requirement for a prescription for patients ages 7-12. And- the language specifies that if a child does not have a pediatrician or other primary care provider- that pharmacies are required to inform the child's parent or legal guardian of the importance of well child visits and refer patients when appropriate.

Discount Drug Mart's pharmacy teams and those of others around Ohio have a proven track record of safely providing vaccines. During the COVID-19 Pandemic- Ohio pharmacists provided more than 14 million vaccines to Ohioans. From keeping doors open and lights on in the early days of the pandemic- to getting shots in arms and providing testing- our pharmacy teams played a vital role in getting Ohio reopened and returned to normal.

Pharmacy-based immunizations have been a well-established practice in the state for many years. And- recent surveys tell us that 87% of Ohioans feel as though it is very or somewhat easy to access Ohio's pharmacies. Discount Drug Mart locations are open every day of the year- with our pharmacists and pharmacy teams ready to serve our patients.

Our founder- a pharmacist- opened our first pharmacy more than 50 years ago in 1969. Today- we have 78 pharmacies throughout Ohio. We employ more than 4,700 plus Ohioans- including more than 240 pharmacists- making us one of the state's biggest employers. Discount Drug Mart is an employee owned company- consistently ranking nationally among the Top 10 Drug Store Chains based on sales volume and number of locations. Ours is a great Ohio story.

We would urge you to support Senate Bill 144. We believe Senate Bill 144 will make certain that Ohio's families will only experience better health outcomes with expanded access to critical pharmacy services.

We thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Respectfully-



John Gans
President



Pete Ratycz, R.Ph.
Senior Vice President- Pharmacy

**Please contact Steve Ferris (Governmental Affairs Director)
with any questions or if you need any additional information.
He can be reached by telephone (216-262-6522) or by email (sferris@discount-drugmart.com)**