



October 3, 2023

**Ohio Senate Bill 144: Regards immunizations by pharmacists, pharmacy interns and techs**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee:

CVS Health strongly supports **Ohio Senate Bill 144**, which would empower Ohio families with the option to access the full range of childhood vaccines at a pharmacy and authorize pharmacists to delegate vaccine administration to trained certified or registered pharmacy technicians. Technicians play a vital role in the delivery of pharmacy care to patients, and they enable pharmacists to focus on clinical responsibilities such as drug utilization review and direct patient care and counselling.

To date, nearly 80 percent of states (including Ohio's regional peer states Kentucky, Michigan, Virginia, and West Virginia) have taken the necessary legislative action to enable technicians to continue vaccinating after the federal pandemic-related PREP Act allowances expire. Pharmacies across Ohio and the nation have demonstrated that allowances granted under the PREP Act policy are safe and have resulted in expanded access to critical health care needs.

The Ohio legislature should act to enable continued pharmacy technician support for vaccine administration at community pharmacies.

Authorizing pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations enables pharmacies to plan and adapt care delivery models to provide increased vaccine capacity and optimally serve patients. It is critical to leverage the expertise and skills of all pharmacy staff to optimize the capacity of pharmacies to provide much needed vaccinations and other care services across the state.

CVS Health is community-based and locally focused, engaging consumers with the care they need when and where they need it. In Ohio, CVS Health operates more than 350 retail locations with nearly 12,000 employees. Approximately 91% of Ohioans live within 10 miles of a CVS retail location. Ohio Senate Bill 144 would make it easier and more convenient for Ohioans across the state to access their health care needs at the local pharmacy that they know and trust.

CVS Health is the nation's premier health innovation company helping people on their path to better health. Whether in one of its pharmacies or through its health services and plans, CVS Health is pioneering a bold new approach to total health by making quality care more affordable, accessible, simple, and seamless.

On behalf of CVS Health, I thank you for allowing us to provide our comments of support for consideration.

Sincerely,

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