

THE OHIO COUNCIL OF

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December 1, 2020

The Honorable Kirk Schuring, Chairman
Senate General Government & Agency Review Committee
Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Schuring and members of the Committee,

As you know, the United States is very close to having several vaccines available to combat the novel coronavirus. In order to assure the prompt and efficient distribution of these vaccines in the community setting when they become available to the general public, we will need to leverage all the assets available to us. Pharmacists and their teams are well-trained in vaccine administration and are uniquely prepared to assist during this crisis, which means that it is imperative that the legislature enact House Bill 673 for the health and well-being of Ohioans.

As you know, the bill authorizes pharmacists and pharmacy interns to administer any future COVID-19 vaccinations to individuals ages seven and older. Ohio law already permits these health professional to administer the flu vaccine to individuals ages seven and older and all other CDC-recommended vaccinations to individuals ages 13 and older, without a prescription. These licensed health care providers are required by law to be trained in the appropriate administration of any vaccine before doing so.

Federal guidance issued on April 8, 2020 by the US Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health stated that the PREP Act authorized pharmacists to administer FDA-approved COVID-19 testing. Subsequently, on May 27, 2020, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy issued updated guidance that Ohio pharmacists may order and conduct FDA-approved COVID-19 testing and that licensed pharmacy interns and certified pharmacy technicians may also conduct these tests under the direct supervision of a pharmacist. While the Board has the authority to expand the types of vaccinations that pharmacists and pharmacy interns may administer, a statutory directive from the Ohio General Assembly would ensure that these competent providers may administer any vaccine against COVID-19 approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share the Council's support for House Bill 673. Our special thanks go out to Representative Roemer for his leadership on this issue. We encourage your favorable support of House Bill 673.

Sincerely,



Lora Miller
Director of Governmental Affairs & Public Relations