[Date]

The Honorable [Assemblymember/Senator]

Assemblymember/Senator Address

Dear [Legislator]:

My name is [Member], and I am a [position] at [workplace]. I am writing to you on behalf of the New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists and am urging you to support: S5277 (May)/A6511 (Paulin).

With the measles outbreaks, it is hard to believe that pharmacists in New York State cannot help our communities by providing this and other critical vaccines. Despite ~13,000 pharmacists certified as immunizers, New York State is an outlier among states by not authorizing pharmacists to be able to administer all vaccines recommended by the CDC. This does not allow pharmacists to administer Hepatitis A vaccine, Hepatitis B vaccine, MMR vaccine, HPV vaccine or Varicella vaccine.

All but 3 states (NY, WV, NH) allow the pharmacist to administer all of these vaccines. The disparity causes confusion for patients, providers and pharmacists. Since pharmacists are the most accessible health professionals, allowing pharmacists the able to immunize against vaccine-preventable diseases – in a similar fashion to almost every other state – will ensure New Yorkers are best protected.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Vaccine** | **Allowed** | **Not** |
| **Hep A** | AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MD, MI, MO, MN, MS, MT, NE, NH, NV, NJ, NM, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WI, WV, WY | NY |
| **Hep B** | AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MD, MI, MO, MN, MS, MT, NE, NH NV, NJ, NM, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WI, WV, WY | NY |
| **MMR** | AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MD, MI, MO, MN, MS, MT, NE, NH NV, NJ, NM, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WI, WY | NY, WV |
| **Varicella** | AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MD, MI, MO, MN, MS, MT, NE, NH, NV, NJ, NM, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WI, WY | NY, WV |
| **HPV** | AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MD, MI, MO, MN, MS, MT, NE, NV, NJ, NM, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WI, WV, WY | NH, NY |

Further, there is a rule that requires a patient-specific or non-patient specific order from a provider in that county or adjoining county. This restricts access to vaccines, in the areas (mostly upstate) with low adult immunization rates and which are considered medically underserved. Finally, the immunization law is scheduled to sunset in July, 2020.

This bill expands the authorized vaccines to include all recommended by CDC, eliminates the county rule and the sunset. It will expand access to critical immunizations and prevent disease in New York State. I strongly urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

[name and contact information]