

Steven Sepe

From: rose catania <rose.catania@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 10:22 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: Rep. Donovan, Susan R; Rep. Giraldo, Joshua J.; Rep. Potter, Brandon C.; Rep. Stewart, Jennifer A.; Rep. Speakman, June; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. McGaw, Michelle E.; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M.; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Handy, Arthur; Rep. Fogarty, Kathleen A.; Rep. Cotter, Megan L.; Rep. Boylan, Jennifer; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Ackerman, Mia A.
Subject: H 5427 Testimony

Dear House Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am writing to testify that I do not support this bill as currently written. This bill should cover all vaccines beyond Covid and Flu, including regular childhood vaccinations that are recommended by both the CDC and the ACIP. Furthermore, the age limits should be removed as it will prevent children under age 9 from receiving vaccines through pharmacies. There is no clinical or scientific rationale for these age ranges and pharmacists can only give vaccines that are age appropriate according to the vaccine guidelines already.

I am a parent, Scituate resident, and co-organizer of a large homeschooling co-op with over 130 families. As a parent who has organized vaccine clinics with partner pharmacies for uninsured and underinsured children and families in this state, these unnecessary limitations on age and vaccine type will only further health inequities in our state and region. As a small state, the vaccine clinics I have organized have served not only Rhode Islanders, but residents of three neighboring states. Limiting the kinds of vaccines pharmacists can provide and using arbitrarily defined age ranges will only limit vaccination efforts and will not contribute to helping our state and region meet public health goals for disease prevention.

I urge you to modify this bill before passing it.

Thank you,
R. Tina Catania, PhD