

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Honorable Members of the Illinois House of Representatives**

**FROM: Illinois State Medical Society  
Illinois Chapter – American Academy of Pediatrics  
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians  
Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society**

**RE: OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 3627**

**DATE: March 2015**

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**Physicians at the Illinois State Medical Society, the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians and the Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society respectfully request your “NO” vote on House Bill 3627, legislation that would allow pharmacists to administer any vaccine to children 10 years and older.**

At age 11, most children in Illinois need their 6th grade physical, with their Tdap, meningococcal, and HPV vaccines. Currently, pharmacists can provide the influenza and Tdap vaccines to children ages 14 years and older. Physicians are concerned that lowering the age and removing any restriction on the type of vaccination administered does not adequately protect a child’s health.

Children need annual comprehensive physician examinations. Immunizations should remain part of those examinations. When it comes to treating children, a shot is not just a shot; it is an opportunity for the child’s physical wellbeing to be assessed by qualified health care professionals. Pharmacists are not qualified to provide that service.

House Bill 3627 takes a piecemeal approach to medical care and will take more children out of the medical home. This is a disservice to children.

In addition, the Affordable Care Act requires quality and outcome measurements of all physicians, clinics and offices. This bill makes it difficult for physicians providing care to children to maintain accurate records, and thus negatively impacts their measurements.

While current law requires pharmacists to notify a child’s physician of an immunization, many do not follow through with the notification. Physicians often complain that parents claim that their children have had their vaccines including flu, but do not have dates as to when they were given, making it difficult, if not impossible, for the physician to determine if the appropriate vaccinations were administered.

This again is a disservice to a child’s health.

**For these reasons, we respectfully request your “NO” vote on House Bill 3627.**