



## Vermont Association of Chain Drug Stores

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**TO: Senate Health & Welfare Committee**

**DATE: February 23, 2017**

**RE: S.71; An act relating to the administration of immunizations by pharmacists**

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On behalf of our members operating community pharmacies in the state of Vermont, the Vermont Association of Chain Drug Stores (VACDS) appreciated Senator Mullin re-introduction of S.71.

A recent study on community pharmacy-provided vaccines revealed that patients accessing vaccinations during hours when traditional vaccine providers are unavailable are more likely to be younger than 65 years of age.

Further, patients younger than 18 years of age received vaccinations during these “off-clinic hours” more than any other age-group in the study. Allowing pharmacists to provide all CDC recommended vaccines can help to improve the rate of vaccination in all population in rural areas of Vermont.

- Pharmacists are allowed to administer immunizations in every state pursuant to a protocol; this does not expand their scope of practice.
- Community pharmacists have retail locations though out Vermont so not only will access be increased but also education.
- Immunizations as the best defense to prevent illnesses from vaccine preventable diseases; lower the age restriction recognize that pharmacist immunization services are a public health benefit.

Community pharmacists are ideally situated to have a significant role in improving vaccination rates. They are readily accessible for patients, and offer vaccine services days, nights and weekends. We would ask that the committee consider passage of S.71.

