

I am writing in support of SB1030.

As a pharmacist in my community for over twenty years, I have had the opportunity to watch many of my regular patients “graduate” to assisted living and nursing care facilities. It has been concerning to be contacted by some of these individuals, because they do not have access to routine vaccines. They are fearful of what an outbreak of flu or covid in the facility would mean to their safety.

Our pharmacy provides vaccine clinics on site for several care facilities in our area. This requires a bit of effort on the part of the facility, they must collect a consent and provide a method of payment for each resident to be vaccinated. Some facilities are not willing to make the effort, stating that patients can be vaccinated at their doctor’s office, or their families can arrange to take them to a pharmacy. Unfortunately, many doctors are not scheduling time for routine vaccinations, often patients do not have family nearby to help with transportation to a pharmacy, or the patient may be difficult to transport.

The easiest way to help improve vaccination rates in group facilities is to remove the barriers to care. I believe SB1030 will encourage long term care facilities to do just that.