



**Carrie Rand-Anastasiades**  
**Executive Director**  
**Testimony before the Public Health, Human Services and**  
**Appropriations committees on COVID 19 Issues**  
**September 2, 2020**

Good Morning Committee Chairs and Members of the Committees, My name is Carrie Rand-Anastasiades and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies. We represent chain pharmacies around the State such as Walgreens, Rite-Aid, Stop & Shop, and PriceChopper to name a few. I am submitting testimony in support of pharmacists administering the COVID 19 vaccine to adults and children 12 and older.

As the COVID pandemic continues plague our world we look to the future of reopening and the health and safety of our citizens, we feel CT pharmacies are in the unique position to help facilitate this in the next phase of the pandemic response. A vaccine for the Coronavirus is on the horizon and while pharmacists are allowed to administer all CDC approved vaccines to those 18 and older, it is anticipated that the COVID -19 vaccine will only be FDA approved. CDC approval is an extended process and the Federal Government would like to “fast track” this vaccine and make it available to the public. We feel it is critically important that pharmacists be able to administer the vaccine, but we would need modification to the current statute. In addition, we also seek to extend the privilege of immunization to children in accordance with the new HHS directive.

Although we are unsure of exactly when a COVID vaccine will be released, we want to be prepared when it occurs. We have been working with the Department of Consumer Protection on this issue as well and they also have language giving the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health power to enable pharmacists to immunize the vaccine.

A few weeks ago HHS released an amendment authorizes State-licensed pharmacists (and pharmacy interns acting under their supervision to administer vaccines, if the pharmacy intern is licensed or registered by his or her State board of pharmacy) to

order and administer vaccines to individuals ages three through 18 years. The vaccine must be approved or licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). HHS is expanding access to childhood vaccines to avoid preventable diseases in children, additional strains on the healthcare system, and any further increase in avoidable adverse health consequences—particularly if such complications coincide with an additional resurgence of COVID-19. A May 2020 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report found a troubling drop in routine childhood immunizations as a result of families staying at home. While families followed public health warnings about going out, an unfortunate result was many missed routine vaccinations. This decrease in childhood-vaccination rates is a public health threat and a collateral harm caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We respectfully ask you to include this ability in the upcoming special session so that we can ensure the public can benefit to the fullest extent. Administration of vaccines by pharmacists has saved thousands of lives over the past years and we would very much like to continue to play a vital role in this pandemic. Our footprint in every community across CT and our buying power can ensure access to thousands of individuals in an expedient manner. Getting people back to work and children back to school will be an overwhelming task but can be accomplished if we have all qualified individuals working towards that goal. We are happy to discuss this with you further. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.