



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CHAIN DRUG STORES

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**  
**A9507/ S7507 Health Article VII Executive Budget Bill**

***AN ACT to implement the State Health and Mental Hygiene Budget for the 2020-2021 State Fiscal Year -- amends the education and public health laws, in relation to pharmacist immunizations***

NACDS strongly supports this legislation to expand New York's highly successful pharmacist immunizer law and to make the law permanent.

Since 2008 when pharmacists were first authorized to immunize adults against flu and pneumococcal disease, the response from pharmacists, the medical community, public health officials, insurers and consumers has been overwhelmingly positive. Immunization rates have improved as access to vaccines has expanded. Today 14,000 New York licensed pharmacists are SED-certified immunizers.

State law authorizes pharmacists and pharmacy interns, under the direct supervision of an immunizing pharmacist, to immunize children against influenza and adults against influenza, pneumococcal disease, shingles, meningitis, tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. This bill expands the types of vaccines that may be administered by a pharmacist to adults eighteen years of age and older, including any other immunizations recommended by the advisory committee on immunization practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The bill aligns New York with laws in other states where pharmacists administer all CDC-adult recommended vaccines.

Making the law permanent is easily justified. In consecutive legislative sessions, vaccines have been added and sunset dates have been moved. During public health emergencies (e.g. Superstorm Sandy, the virulent 2018 flu season) the Governor issued Executive Orders that expanded the law's provisions. It has become abundantly clear that having vaccines available to the public on a walk-in basis in the evenings, on weekends or whenever convenient has proven effective. With widespread insurance coverage, broad public acceptance and demonstrated value, pharmacists as immunizers should have a permanent place in the Laws of New York.