



September 9, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1064 (Fong) Pharmacy practice: vaccines: independent initiation and administration - SIGNATURE REQUEST

Dear Governor Newsom,

The California Retailers Association (CRA) and National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) write to respectfully request your signature on AB 1064 (Fong), which will allow pharmacists to administer all Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved vaccines for persons three years of age or older that have received an Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) individual vaccine recommendation published by the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The California Retailers Association is the only statewide trade association representing all segments of the retail industry including general merchandise, department stores, mass merchandisers, restaurants, convenience stores, supermarkets and grocery stores, chain drug, and specialty retail such as auto, vision, jewelry, hardware and home stores. CRA works on behalf of California's retail industry, which operates over 400,000 retail establishments with a gross domestic product of billions of dollars annually and employs millions of Californians.

The National Association of Chain Drug Stores represents traditional drug stores, supermarkets and mass merchants with pharmacies. Chains operate over 40,000 pharmacies, and NACDS' over 80 chain member companies include regional chains, with a minimum of four stores, and national companies. Chains employ nearly 3 million individuals, including 155,000 pharmacists. They fill over 3 billion prescriptions yearly, and help patients use medicines correctly and safely, while offering innovative services that improve patient health and health care affordability.

In 2020, pharmacists were authorized by AB 1710 (Wood, Chpt. 123) to independently initiate and administer any COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized by the FDA. CRA and NACDS were in strong support of this bill because it allowed pharmacists to administer the COVID-19 vaccines that have been approved by the FDA for emergency use authorization, but not yet recommended

by ACIP. The bill, however, did not address the further authorization required for pharmacists to administer non-routine vaccinations approved or authorized by the FDA.

Some vaccines are not placed on the ACIP list because they are not considered “routine,” including certain vaccines recommended for foreign travel that inoculate against Typhoid or Yellow Fever. Because pharmacists in California are only authorized to administer vaccines listed on the routine immunization schedule recommended by the ACIP, patients must receive these non-routine immunizations from a physician. This is impractical and inefficient, as pharmacies are readily available to patients and pharmacists already have the training and education to safely administer these vaccinations.

To continue to safely reopen our nation and keep Californians healthy, it is imperative that pharmacists are authorized during and after the pandemic to administer all FDA-approved or authorized vaccines that have received an ACIP individual vaccine recommendation and published by the CDC. Pharmacies and pharmacists play a critical role in the timely and safe delivery of health care services for patients in California. Millions of Californians turn to their local pharmacies every day for their medications, vaccinations, and more, and pharmacies are readily accessible in most communities with most Californians living within five miles of a pharmacy.

For the reasons outlined above, CRA and NACDS strongly support AB 1064 and urge you to sign this important measure. Please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Snyder or Lindsay Gullahorn with Capitol Advocacy at jsnyder@capitoladvocacy.com or lgullahorn@capitoladvocacy.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Rachel Michelin, President
California Retailers Association



Steve C. Anderson, FASAE, CAE, IOM
President & Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Chain Drug Stores

cc: Assemblymember Vince Fong, Author
Stuart Thompson, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Anne Sodergren, Executive Officer, Board of Pharmacy