



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Legislation expands access to childhood immunizations *HB 3236 will offer convenience and savings to Oregon parents*

SALEM – Legislation expanding access to immunizations for Oregon children was passed in the Senate this morning. House Bill 3236 will allow certified pharmacists to administer vaccines for children 11 and older.

“For Oregon families that are uninsured and underinsured, or those families who struggle to find time to get a doctor’s office, this legislation will significantly expand access to needed immunizations,” said Senator Bill Morrisette (D-Springfield), chair of the Senate Human Services and Rural Health Policy Committee.

“Pharmacies are a more affordable and convenient option for a family who can’t manage to get an appointment with a physician.”

Currently, specially trained pharmacists are permitted to give immunizations to children 15 and older. In recent years, immunization recommendations for adolescents by the Center for Disease Control Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices have been modified for teens and preteens starting at the age of 11. The changes include:

- Meningococcal vaccine to protect against certain serious types of bacterial meningitis
- Tdap booster to help prevent tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series that can protect girls against cervical cancer in adulthood
- A second chickenpox vaccine (when necessary)
- An annual flu vaccine, now recommended for all adolescents through age 18 years

“From a public health standpoint, this legislation will increase availability of immunizations, which is always a worthy goal,” said Sen. Alan Bates (D-Ashland), a practicing physician. “Particularly in rural areas where families may need to travel long distances to visit a doctor, a pharmacy can be a more convenient venue for immunizations.”

HB 3236 also directs the Department of Human Services to adopt rules requiring pharmacists to report information about the administration of immunizations. This information will be used to assess barriers to vaccinations in the state.

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