



**Testimony in Support of Raised Bill 5044  
An Act Concerning Immunizations Public Health Committee  
February 19, 2020**

Dear Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, and members of the Public Health Committee:

On behalf of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association (CPA), I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of Raised Bill 5044. CPA represents more than 1,000 pharmacists, technicians, and students across all sectors of the pharmacy industry in Connecticut.

The scientific facts supporting broad immunization are indisputable: Vaccination has enormously reduced the burden of infectious disease on society—indeed, only clean water performs better.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that vaccines annually prevent almost 6 million deaths worldwide.<sup>2</sup> In the USA, there has been a 99% decrease in incidence for the nine diseases for which vaccines have been recommended for decades,<sup>3</sup> accompanied by a similar decline in mortality and disease sequelae.

Vaccine safety gets far more public attention than vaccination effectiveness, but the science consistently shows that vaccines are safer than even therapeutic medicines.<sup>4</sup> Vaccines have an excellent safety record,<sup>5</sup> but misguided safety concerns have led to a fall in vaccination coverage in some areas, causing the re-emergence of pertussis and measles.<sup>6</sup> Connecticut should not be among that number.

Simply put, the benefits of vaccination extend far beyond prevention of specific diseases in individuals and comprehensive vaccination in a population is a cornerstone of public health. And as the most accessible of all healthcare providers, pharmacists are committed to providing care that is supported by sound clinical practices and rigorous scientific research.

Thank you for your consideration. For additional information, contact Nathan Tinker, PhD at (860) 563-4619.

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<sup>1</sup> Plotkin SL, Plotkin SA. A short history of vaccination. In: Plotkin SA, Orenstein WA, eds. *Vaccines*, 4th edn. Philadelphia: WB Saunders; 2004: 1-15.

<sup>2</sup> Ehreth J. The global value of vaccination. *Vaccine* 2003; 21: 596-600.

<sup>3</sup> Anon. Impact of vaccines universally recommended for children. 1900–1998. *Mortal Morb Wkly Rep* 1999; 48: 243-8.

<sup>4</sup> Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety. 3–4 December 2003. *Wkly Epidemiol Rec* 2004; 79: 16-20.

<sup>5</sup> MacIntyre CR, Leask J. Immunisation myths and realities: responding to arguments against immunisation. *J Paediatr Child Health* 2003; 39: 487-91.

<sup>6</sup> Atkinson P, Cullinan C, Jones J, Fraser G, Maguire H. Large outbreak of measles in London: reversal of health inequalities. *Arch Dis Child* 2005; 90: 424-5.