



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

February 9, 2021

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Health
FR: Senator Dale Kooyenga and Representative Joe Sanfelippo
RE: Support for Senate Bill 60 / Assembly Bill 4

Chairman Testin and fellow committee members, thank you for hearing these bills, legislation that authorizes pharmacy technicians and pharmacy students to administer vaccines.

Under these bills, to administer vaccines, pharmacy technicians would complete two hours of training and be supervised by a pharmacist. Pharmacy students with two completed years of pharmacy school would be supervised by any health care provider who is authorized to administer vaccines, rather than a pharmacist, as current law requires. The knowledge of pharmacy technicians and students should be utilized to allow for a streamlined approach to vaccination for COVID-19.

As the population eligible to receive the vaccine expands throughout the state, it is necessary to ensure that we appropriately react, scaling the size of the group of those allowed to administer the vaccine.

Currently, frontline health care personnel, residents in skilled nursing and long-term care facilities, police and fire personnel, correctional staff, and adults aged 65 and older are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Every week, Wisconsin receives approximately 70,000 vaccine doses from the federal government, and if this supply is increased, an expanded population including education and childcare workers may be eligible by March 1st.

To mitigate drawing out the effects of COVID-19, increasing the vaccine rollout is necessary. To prepare for future demand, it will be necessary to source more help from trained individuals. The value that pharmacy technicians and pharmacy students could provide to the state would immensely increase the capacity to vaccinate a larger percentage of the population.

Two amendments have been introduced to address the following issues:

- SA 1 and AA 1 would allow pharmacists, pharmacy students and pharmacy technicians who are trained to administer immunizations to administer injectable epinephrine and diphenhydramine in the case of an adverse reaction to a vaccine.
- SA 2 would allow first- and second-year pharmacy students to administer the vaccine under the supervision of a pharmacist. The Medical College of Wisconsin and other healthcare experts agree pharmacy students have the knowledge and skills necessary to administer vaccines, and the amendment will bolster the number of professionals getting our citizens inoculated. *This particular amendment was not adopted in the Assembly version because the subject was brought to the Senate author's attention after the Assembly had acted on the bill.*

Thank you for your time and we ask for your support of this legislation.