



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT
New York State Public Health Association

S.1531, Hoylman-Sigal/ A.7154, McDonald
Reporting of Adult Vaccinations to State & NYC Immunization Registries

The New York Public Health Association (NYSPHA), which represents over 600 public health professionals and students across New York State, strongly supports this legislation to require health care provider administering a vaccine to persons nineteen years of age or older to report that immunization to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) or the New York City Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) as applicable. The bill allows adults who do not wish to have their vaccine records included in NYSIIS/CIR to opt out.

The importance of tracking immunization through the state and city immunization registries was made clear by the COVID-19 pandemic. Reporting and regular monitoring of the administration of COVID vaccine pursuant to an executive order allowed the targeting of COVID vaccination programs to under served populations and provided the data to conduct studies that confirmed the vaccines' effectiveness. The same information collected for other adult vaccine-preventable diseases such as pneumonia, influenza, shingles, and pertussis (whooping cough) would not only provide critical information to target adult vaccination programs but would also provide a secure and complete record of each person's immunizations, for example those provided in pharmacies and community vaccination clinics, so that their health care provider can assure that they are receiving the standard of care when it comes to vaccinations. The COVID executive order should be made permanent and expanded to cover all adult vaccinations to enable continued access by health providers to such adult vaccination records and to allow accurate and robust vaccine tracking, with a patient opt out feature.

Under current New York State law, reporting is required of all immunizations administered to children less than nineteen years old to NYSIIS/CIR yielding the critical information necessary to protect the public health from childhood vaccine preventable diseases. The information in the immunization registries is confidential and secure and is used only for purposes of improving vaccination coverage levels. These bills would add vaccines administered to adults to these same reporting requirements as for children. Expanding this requirement to adult vaccinations will also ensure that providers continue to have a reliable record of immunization information from multiple vaccination providers, for example vaccinations provided

in pharmacies or community vaccination clinics. Benefits of this expansion would include:

- Ensuring New York has a robust registry for all residents receiving immunizations so patients can easily track them and receive only the vaccines they need
- Decreased time spent by office staff seeking immunization histories from other providers
- Assistance in the management of vaccine supply and ordering
- Availability of reliable data for Departments of Health to use to target community education efforts focused on vaccine preventable diseases

In conclusion, with adults receiving vaccines from multiple providers (physician offices, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies and others), it is crucial that a universal record and reliable data be available for all health care providers and departments of health, similar to what is in place for the pediatric population. **NYSPPHA urges the prompt passage of this legislation to ensure that all New Yorkers receive the recommended vaccines they need, to improve vaccination outreach and targeting programs to reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable disease in the State.**

For more information, contact advocacy@NYSPHA.org