

Allergy & Asthma Network
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Business Council of New York State, Inc.
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Community Pharmacy Association of New York State
Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York
Food Industry Alliance of NYS, Inc.
GMHC
Healthcare Distribution Alliance
Hispanic Health Network
Infusion Access Foundation
Latino Commission on AIDS
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Mended Hearts, Inc.
Mental Health Association in New York State
National Infusion Center Association
New York Oncology Hematology
New York State Association of County Health Officials
New York State Association of Rural Health
New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists
New York State Public Health Association
Northeast Kidney Foundation
NYU Langone Health
Pharmacists Society of the State of New York
Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
Treatment Action Group (TAG)

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senate Leader Stewart-Cousins:

As public health, clinical and civic organizations we are grateful the Senate has acknowledged the role and importance of pharmacists in increasing vaccination rates. **We strongly urge the final budget include language to allow pharmacists to administer all vaccines approved by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).**

Sadly, the pandemic has highlighted health disparities that continue to grow throughout the country where policies have continued to disenfranchise the poor, communities of color, and rural residents. At this critical moment, we must keep our communities healthy and safe, which means building strong public health infrastructure through evidence-based interventions demonstrated to decrease health disparities in our communities. Pharmacists are a key partner in building this strong health infrastructure.

More and more, consumers are turning to their local pharmacy for medical information, advice and services. Pharmacists are some of the most trusted health care professionals and important members of the state's health care system.

More than 90% of the nation's population live within two miles of a community pharmacy and over 95% live within five miles. Pharmacies traditionally have longer hours of operation making them more accessible for many for

vaccination services. Expanding access will assist countless New Yorkers and remove barriers to vaccinations.

Thank you for all your work over the last year to keep residents of New York safe during this the public health emergency. We believe it is critical for our public health infrastructure for the final budget to include language allow pharmacists to administer all approved vaccines.

Sincerely,

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cc: New York State Senate