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Chairman Weisz and the Human Service Committee, SB 2221 is a bill I was asked to introduce by the Pharmacy Association. There are three main points to this bill:

1. Allowing pharmacists to engage in vaccinations and immunizations
2. Emergency pharmacy practice definition change
3. Allowing the Board of Pharmacy to develop a prescriptive authority

Currently, pharmacists can vaccinate children eleven years or older, this bill would reduce that age requirement to three and older. This is already being practiced through a current executive order due to the pandemic, and we are just looking to put this into law.

Next, in reference to the emergency pharmacy practice, currently a pharmacist can only provide a 72-hour refill. This has proven to be an inconvenience not only for the pharmacist, but also the patient. This would allow the pharmacist to fill the prescription refill for important drugs such as insulin without having them come back 3 days later.

Finally, the last part of this bill is dealing with limited prescriptive authority which would be a program established by the ND Board of Pharmacy. This would include such issues as immunization and tobacco cessation. Pharmacists have proven to be some of the most trusted healthcare professionals who are engaged in wellness initiatives. Using their knowledge and professionalism, many other states have implemented limited prescriptive authority for the pharmacy industry. If any protocols were considered by the board, they would need a 30-day public commenting period, and also go through the rule making process before it was implemented.

There are industry professionals in the room behind me who can likely shed more light on the issue. Mr. Chairman, I ask for a Do Pass recommendation and will stand for any questions.