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AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION – ILLINOIS
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ILLINOIS ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS
ILLINOIS OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETY
ILLINOIS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
ILLINOIS SOCIETY FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING
ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

Oppose HB 5574 – Efforts by Dentists to Provide Immunizations

Groups representing health care professionals and public health advocates urge you to vote no on HB 5574, a bill that would allow dentists to provide certain immunizations, including those for human papillomavirus (HPV), hepatitis B, influenza and shingles to individuals over the age of ten.

As advocates for a public health system that encourages patients to have access to a medical home, we are extremely concerned that this legislation will take people away from their medical home and prevent better coordinated care.

We are also concerned about dentists' ability to actually implement a program for which they have little to no experience, including the vaccine schedule, its administration, handling and storage. HPV, for example, has to be given in a series of three shots in a six month period. We also have questions on how they will retain documentation and communicate with the patient's primary care provider.

This bill will not increase access to immunizations. Medicaid no longer covers adult dental care. Medicare does not cover dental services, except under certain circumstances. Very few health care plans cover services provided by dentists and dental plans to our knowledge do not include coverage for immunizations. This will cause a payment and billing nightmare for patients as dentists will have to collect payment from the patient on the day the service is provided.

Given that health insurance payers follow the policies of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, it is highly unlikely that individual or group health coverage will consider dentists as credentialed as qualified to provide immunizations. **This will most likely create a cash business for dentists as patients will be paying out of pocket for the vaccines,** instead of having it a covered service under their health care plan when they seek treatment from their physician or other in-network health care professional.

For these reasons we urge you to vote no on HB 5574.