Flu Vaccine Legislation: Trends and Potential Dangers

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HIDA (Health Industry Distributors Association)
A trade association, founded in 1902, representing medical products distributors

200 Member companies operating 432 distribution centers in the United States

HIDA Distributor Members Serve:
- 159,000 physician office accounts
- 5,200 hospitals
- 19,500 long-term care facilities

HIDA Distributor Member Profile
Distributor Markets:
- 60% serve physician offices
- 40% serve hospitals
- 30% serve long-term care facilities

Most members serve more than one market
2006–2007 Supply Breakdown (approx.)

50% Manufacturer Direct

50% Distribution

Source: CDC/HIDA 2006 Data

Markets Served by Distributors (approx.)

80% Physician offices, clinics, and other small providers

20% Hospitals, public health departments, long term care, retail/mass immunizers.
The Landscape in 2007

- Approx. 35 States (Plus the Federal Government) Have Introduced or Passed Upwards of 90 Pieces of Legislation

- I/HIDA Have Had Numerous In-Person Meetings/Conversations with Legislators and Regulators Across the Last 6 Months: Feds, TX, CT, IL, RI, MA, NJ……
Legislative Trends

The Legislation is broken down into 5 categories:

- Priority Distribution for Physicians
- Priority Distribution for Public Health Entities
- State Bulk Purchasing/Distribution of Vaccine
- Increased Reporting Regulations
- Thimerosal Regulation/Elimination
Potential Dangers Inherent in the Trends

- A Patchwork of Differing/Competing Legislation will Further Complicate an Already Delicate System

- Such a Patchwork is Poised to Add Cost to the System

- As Complexity and Costs Increase, the Market is Less Attractive for Manufacturers and Distributors

- This Legislation is Largely Constructed in a Vacuum – Without the Input from Public Health Agencies, the CDC, Key Stakeholders – Therefore it is Poised to Compete with Efforts Already Underway to Improve Communication and Efficiencies
Observations

- A Great Deal of Education is Needed at the Provider and Public Health Level

- Public Education/Communication Efforts Require Closer Coordination

- Much of the Legislation/Regulation is Fueled by a Lack of Coordinated Education – Mixed Messages

- Legislation, Simply Put, Will Not Ensure More Americans Are Vaccinated – In Fact, it May Have the Opposite Effect