



**Committee:** Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 355  
**Title:** Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccinations  
**Hearing Date:** February 13, 2020  
**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 355 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccinations*. This bill would lower the age by which pharmacists may administer vaccines from 11 to 9 years of age. It also removes the requirement for a prescription. The bill does not affect requirements for parental consent.

Pharmacists have administered vaccinations safely under current Maryland law. This bill increases access in two important ways:

- Removes the requirement for a prescription from another health care practitioner. All providers, including health care practitioners, are supposed to follow the Centers for Disease Control’s schedule for vaccination. This, in essence, removes the requirement for a prescription;
- Lowers the age at which parents may bring a child directly to a pharmacist for a vaccination from 11 to 9 years of age.

All providers, including pharmacists, are now required to enter information about vaccinations into a statewide system called Immunet. With this system, pharmacists can determine if vaccinations have been given, and primary care providers can check if vaccinations have been administered elsewhere.

ACNM supports this legislation because it will expand access to vaccines; and as we have seen an increase in outbreaks of measles in parts of the United States, we know that there is a need to continue to increase access to vaccinations.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.