



DATE: February 13, 2020
TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
FROM: Aliyah N. Horton, CAE, Executive Director
RE: **SUPPORT – Senate Bill 355 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccinations**

MPhA founded in 1882 is the only state-wide professional society representing all practicing pharmacists in Maryland. Our mission is to strengthen the profession of pharmacy, advocate for all Maryland Pharmacists and promote excellence in pharmacy practice. In doing so, we prioritize and value the health and well-being of Maryland residents; safe and effective use of medications and health care devices; collaboration among health care professionals and organizations; professional competence and responsible legislation and regulations.

- The bill would allow any CDC-recommended vaccination to be administered to patients age nine (9) and above without a prescription or prior doctor visit and would maintain current requirements that primary care physicians be notified upon each instance.
- Current law allows pharmacists to administer flu vaccinations for patients age 9 and above without a prescription, and to immunize against other illnesses for patients ages 11-17 with a prescription.
- Current law also requires pharmacists to contact a patient's primary care provider when administering vaccinations and record any vaccinations administered to Maryland ImmuNet. As of 2019, other providers who administer vaccinations must also record administration data in ImmuNet.
- The bill provides more convenience for families seeking immunizations, while still maintaining communication with providers' offices who may then contact patients regarding upkeep of wellness visits.
- 42 other states already allow pharmacists to provide vaccinations without prescriptions to adolescents, including 11 states that do not have an age threshold for pharmacist-administered immunizations.

We urge favorable report for SB 355.

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