



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee  
**Bill Number:** House Bill 87  
**Title:** Public Health – Immunizations – Minor Consent (Access to Vaccines Act)  
**Date:** February 12, 2020  
**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 87 – Public Health – Immunizations – Minor Consent (Access to Vaccines Act)*. This bill would authorize health care providers to immunize a minor who is at least 16 without the consent of a parent or guardian if the minor consents and the provider determines that the minor is mature and capable of giving that consent.

ACNM supports increasing access to vaccinations to protect the health of each individual and the surrounding community. Though vaccinations have totally eradicated one deadly disease (small pox), others still circulate in the United States, such as whooping cough, Hib (a cause of meningitis), and the flu. These diseases range from mild to severe and life-threatening. Allowing these minors to consent to vaccines will give them access to the protection they need and allow them to be part of protecting the health of all Marylanders. In addition, it will give those minors who are college-bound with the necessary vaccinations to enter schools.

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.<sup>i</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> References: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/whatifstop.htm>