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BILL NO.: HB 87

TITLE: Public Health – Immunizations – Minor Consent (Access to Vaccines Act)

SPONSOR: Delegate Korman

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 12, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 87- Public Health – Immunizations – Minor Consent (Access to Vaccines Act). This bill would authorize a healthcare provider to provide an immunization to a minor without adult consent if the minor is at least 16 years old and capable of giving informed consent.

Vaccines have saved millions of lives and prevented the catastrophic pandemics that haunted previous generations. However, confusion and misunderstanding amplified by bad-faith conspiracy actors has led to some parents refusing to vaccinate their children. HB 87 gives minors more agency over their healthcare decisions, allowing them to get vaccinated even if their parents are opposed to the idea.

This proposed legislation aligns with one of Baltimore County’s top priorities – preventing public health threats. Reducing the number of vaccine-preventable diseases would reduce the burden on the County’s Health and Human Services department, while making the entire community safer and healthier.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 87. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, 443-900-6582.