Oppose HB 1084

This bill requires the use of taxpayer money to promote and incentivize vaccination. It requires the Maryland Department of Health to submit a plan to the legislature which must include items such as measures to increase vaccination rates as a one-size-fits-all measure, recommendations to incentivize vaccination among people receiving benefits from the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, and creating conditions for schools to adopt measures outcomes of which are unknown.

The bill has similar provisions to increase COVID-19 testing. Have you not heard that CDC does not recommend universal case investigation and contact tracing?
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/prioritization.html
As Covid-19 vaccination does not prevent transmission or infection and targets an obsolete variant, there is no good reason to universally promote the vaccines. In fact, they do not work in children, and thus present all risk and no benefit. The more accurate UK data shows that vaccines have no effect on severity of illness and may help spread the variants.
https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.02.25.22271454v1
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1058464/Vaccine-surveillance-report-week-9.pdf

The bill would also promote vaccination irrespective of natural immunity, but in fact, natural immunity is more effective than vaccination alone.
https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/prior-covid-infection-more-protective-than-vaccination-during-delta-surge-us-2022-01-19/
https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.19.21262111v1.full-text

The decision whether to take any vaccine must be a private, voluntary decision between healthcare providers and patients based on the individual risk/benefit profile of each patient, not on government incentives. Collecting and using this information in a broadly available system abolishes any medical privacy one could hope for.

The Maryland Medical Assistance Program provides Medicaid benefits. The provisions of this bill lay the groundwork for discrimination against unvaccinated people who rely on Medicaid for their health coverage, as these individuals would be excluded from these incentives.

By this point, everyone is aware of the COVID-19 vaccine, and it has been made widely available. The people of Maryland do not need their government to make sure they take the COVID-19 vaccine or booster. Is the booster required because the original vaccine failed to work as promised? So, whom does this bill benefit or protect?

Please oppose HB 1084. There is no justification for spending on such a program with questionable benefits, the program that discriminates based on medical information, violates medical privacy, risks exposure of sensitive information, and increases costs for everyone.