

Love Maryland PAC

SB210- Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics - Immunization Administration

Unfavorable

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Love Maryland PAC writes to submit Unfavorable testimony for SB210. This bill is unnecessary. There is no longer any emergency regarding Covid or Influenza vaccinations that would call for the continuation of this emergency measure.

Vaccinations are prophylactic services; they are by their very nature non-emergent. During an emergency, the last thing anyone should be focused on is anything but getting the patient the best emergent care possible and transporting them to the appropriate treatment location. We should not be putting our paramedic emergency responders in a position where they are also trying to screen for vaccination need and appropriateness.

Vaccinations are pharmaceutical products that carry risks, precautions, contraindications and are capable to causing severe injuries including death if given inappropriately. How will a paramedic possibly have time or the attention span to ask someone who is bleeding, or unconscious, or having a heart attack in the back of the ambulance if they have an egg allergy? Or have had a bad reaction to a covid vaccination in the past that has required a doctor's intervention? Vaccines should be given under calm and planned circumstances. Even if a patient under paramedic transport needed a covid or influenza vaccination and it was appropriate that they get one, they are undoubtedly going to a hospital where those vaccinations can be given as appropriate and after proper assessment.

Covid and Influenza vaccinations are quite literally available on practically every street corner- every grocery store, every urgent care, every doctor's office, every drug store. There is no reason at all why the critical emergent services of our highly trained paramedics should be tied up with this bill.

Maryland is a state that needs every ambulance and trained paramedic we have to be at the ready for emergency services. I know in my neighborhood we are well aware of how thinly the health care system is staffed after covid. We do NOT need our precious emergency services tied up in time or attention doing the kind of routine, preventative care that can be done pretty much at any strip mall, and especially we do not need these lifesaving resources out and about in the community acting as mobile vaccination centers instead of being ready for actual emergencies.

For these reasons, the Love Maryland PAC asks for an unfavorable report on the bill. Thank you.

Megan Montgomery