



**2024 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL: SB 210 - Emergency Medical Services- Paramedics- Immunization Administration- Effective Date

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee

POSITION: Letter of Support

BILL ANALYSIS: SB 210 would delay the effective date to January 1, 2030, of certain provisions of law that repeal the authority of paramedics to administer influenza and 2019 CoV immunizations under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the authority of paramedics to administer immunizations.

POSITION RATIONALE: The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) strongly supports SB 210. Paramedics play a crucial role in our healthcare system, and their ability to administer immunizations is a valuable asset to local public health in ensuring the health and well-being of our communities. The proposed delay in the effective date allows for a more measured transition and ensures that paramedics can continue to contribute to public health efforts without disruption.

For some of Maryland's smaller local health departments particularly, local paramedics have supplemented health department staffing at vaccination clinics, enabling the department to better meet the needs of their communities. Without their support, it would have been much more challenging to vaccinate citizens during the pandemic. These partnerships have been successful augmentations of the local public health response.

Given the ongoing challenges posed by infectious diseases, including influenza and COVID-19 virus, it is crucial to maintain all available resources for vaccination efforts. It helps safeguard the health and safety of our communities, maintains a robust immunization infrastructure and ensures a better response to public health challenges.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this letter of support for SB 210. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at rmaiora1@jhu.edu or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*