

**Senate Bill 210**

**Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective Date**

**Position: Support**

January 23, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East – Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

On behalf of the Salisbury Fire Department, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Maryland Paramedics ability to vaccinate the public. Paramedics have been able to administer COVID-19 vaccinations, first under the Governor’s proclamation of a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency and then under Chapter 799 of 2021. However, that law is set to sunset Jan. 1, 2025. Maryland needs every available qualified practitioner to be able to administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines to adequately meet the public health need. As you may or may not be aware, the Salisbury Fire Department operates a Mobile integrated Healthcare program. One of the core functions of Mobile Integrated Healthcare is the ability to perform Community Immunizations for those individuals who lack the ability to obtain them through physical or fiscal limitations. As we move forward, we need to encourage all eligible Marylanders to be fully vaccinated and make vaccination convenient and available. To achieve this, we must ensure public health vaccination efforts have adequate staffing in place.

Since January 1, 2022, the Salisbury Fire Department’s Salisbury Wicomico Integrated Firstcare Team (SWIFT) and Minor Definitive Care Now (MDCN) teams have given around 250 Flu, 100 Covid-19, and 15 Tetanus Vaccinations to the community experiencing various social determinants of health as well as protecting our own within the fire department with the help of this law.

For these reasons, the Salisbury Fire Department respectfully requests a favorable position to legislation to codify the ability for Maryland Paramedics to perform community immunizations.

For more information, please contact:

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