



Wes Moore, Governor - Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor - Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 19, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 210 – Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics - Immunization Administration- Effective Date – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for SB 210 – Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective Date. This bill delays the effective date of certain provisions of law that repeal the authority of paramedics to administer influenza and 2019 CoV immunizations under certain circumstances and thereby extends that authority from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030.

Based on the National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Scope of Practice Model, and by virtue of their required education and skills training, Maryland paramedics are qualified to administer intramuscular injections and immunizations. Maryland paramedics are currently authorized to administer influenza and COVID -19 vaccines to individuals at least 18 years old when working in partnership with local health departments or a hospital/hospital systems. Since the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine in early 2021, EMS personnel, through these partnerships, have safely vaccinated over 80,000 members of the public, along with an additional 21,000 state, county, and local government personnel.¹ This collaborative effort has provided vaccinations to specific, identified populations, as well as to individuals with limited access to vaccinations, strengthening Maryland’s capacity to better protect residents against COVID-19 and seasonal influenza. The Department therefore supports SB 210, recognizing the importance of extending EMS authority to administer these vaccinations through January 1, 2030. This bill will not have a fiscal or operational impact on the Department.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case- Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Herrera Scott", is written over a faint outline of the state of Maryland.

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

¹ Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). (2021). Use of Paramedics in Public Health Vaccination Programs Report: <https://www.miemss.org/home/Portals/0/Docs/LegislativeReports/LR-Use-Paramedics-Public-Health-Vaccination-Prgs-202112.pdf?ver=2022-01-27-090453-303>