

Dear committee,

I submit a written testimony in opposition of bill HB0076.

My deep concern is that administering vaccines to young children population by pharmacists in pharmacy settings will inadvertently increase the vaccine hesitancy in the population. It is already problem around the country and in Maryland. The pharmacists are not equipped dealing with small kids emotional reactions to needles and injections, and it will negatively affect the pharmacies' customers. Rarely vaccines could lead to emergency reactions and it will require extra pediatric training for pharmacists to attend to those. Provider should examine the patient and determine that there are no medical contradictions for vaccine delivery. The questions of parental consent (informed voluntary consent) for FDA approved and newly authorized vaccines, and vaccine emergency reactions care could open the pharmacists and pharmacies for future litigation (<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/providers-face-suit-suggesting-improper-vaccine-side-effect-care>).

Right now it is time to restore the public trust in the medical establishment. It is crucial to have policies that are well thought out and implemented with care. Allowing pharmacists with minimal training replace pediatrician with years of specialized training will seed more distrust in the medical establishment and vaccination campaign.

Thank you.

Best,

Dr. Eugenia Poliakov