

House Bill 76/SB 18: Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Administration of Vaccines: Please oppose this bill!!

ATTN: Health and Government Operations Committee

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and all other esteemed Committee Members:

I cannot urge all of you strongly enough to vote against HB 0076/SB 0018, OPPOSING this dangerous bill!!

I do not want the bill to leave the Health and Government Operations Committee because:

This bill is too important to be rushed through. It needs to be given the full consideration of the legislature. In fact this bill has been in Maryland since 2012 and has never moved out of committee in either house.

Also, this endangers our children, because almost anyone can claim to be a "caregiver" and have a child vaccinated without the parents' or legal guardians' knowledge or consent. What if the parents or legal guardians have knowledge of a medical condition or an allergy that a child has to any of the ingredients of a vaccine that may indicate that any particular vaccine is contraindicated for a child? If a "caregiver" then takes the child and gets them vaccinated, that child could have a fatal adverse reaction and DIE!!

This is dangerous legislation. Pharmacies are chaotic and inappropriate places for very young children to be vaccinated. If a pharmacist is overwhelmingly busy, (and, let's face it, when are they not overwhelmingly busy?), they could mistakenly give a child the incorrect vaccine or an incorrect dosage of a vaccine, which has happened at various pharmacies around the world with the Covid vaccine, as well as here in the United States! My very own pharmacy is chaotic, to say the very least, and has been, at times, three days "behind" in filling prescriptions that people need to maintain their life. Now, imagine having the pharmacist also have to give vaccines

to screaming children who are with a person that is NOT their loving parent or legal guardian? That is a recipe for disaster!! I would not want, let alone TRUST, my local pharmacist to vaccinate my children. I would want that to happen in my local pediatrician's office or my Primary Care doctor's office. Those are the people that have been treating my child since birth and know my child the best. Pharmacists do not have anywhere near the same medical information on your child, and any and all specific medical conditions or allergies that come with your child, as your pediatrician's office does! Pharmacies do not have access to this private medical information. Pediatricians are specifically trained to assess children for vaccine appropriateness and readiness. Pharmacists will start making even more mistakes if they are giving pediatric vaccines. It is dangerous for the child and for the customers getting pharmaceuticals to have a pharmacist stop filling a prescription every time a child walks up for a shot. The best health outcomes for our children occur when the parents and the pediatrician work as a team and consider health history, prior medical conditions, precautions that should be taken, and any and all contraindications before making any medical decisions!

Now more than ever we need children to go to see their primary care provider for well visits. Because of the state's damaging Covid policies, statistics are showing a skyrocketing increase in speech and language delays and mental health problems. This bill will keep children from going to the primary care doctor or pediatrician, which could potentially significantly increase the number and severity of speech and language delays and mental health problems, as well as neurodevelopmental issues.

A few other points I would like to make are as follows:

Children cannot be vaccinated like adults and have a very complicated schedule, sometimes receiving multiple shots at once, which is another practice I would not recommend. Children have fragile immune systems and stand more of a chance of having a catastrophic adverse reaction if more than one vaccine is given at a time. Immunizations are pharmaceutical products that come with warnings, precautions, and contraindications, and a list of possible adverse side effects. A child must be

properly medically assessed prior to administration of any vaccine or medication to reduce the risk for serious harm and/or death. A pharmacist does not have this training. Only your pediatrician or a licensed medical doctor does.

The Federal 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act removed liability for vaccine makers, as well as from the provider that administers the vaccines. Pharmacists have not been trained in assessment for childhood vaccines and will NOT be liable for any mistakes, leaving our children at risk for potential catastrophic adverse side effects or adverse permanent conditions.

SIRVA (Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration) Injuries are on the rise since pharmacies started giving immunizations. A skyrocketing number of cases have been compensated by the federal government, as more people are getting their immunizations outside of the doctor's office.

We need a 3-legged stool approach for safe medical care for our children. This stool includes the physician, the parent, and the child. I will fight any bills that remove any part of this. This bill removes the physician, and I know that there also have been and there will be other bills that want minor consent to be the standard, thereby removing the parent, leaving the child completely open to the greedy pharmaceutical industry.

Please think really hard before you vote on this bill. This bill would be disastrous for our children and families in Maryland!

Thank you for your time and attention. I truly appreciate it.

Trudy Tibbals

A very concerned resident and mother residing in Maryland