



**Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee requests an unfavorable report for HB 0689 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Use of Reimbursement Funds by Schools***

This bill mandates that schools and county school systems use reimbursement funds from the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Maryland Children’s Health Insurance Program for specific purposes, including the creation of additional positions, paid internships, and stipends for healthcare providers. We believe that this bill presents several challenges that could have unintended negative consequences.

1. **Financial Strain on School Budgets:** Requiring schools to allocate reimbursement funds to specific areas, such as stipends and internships, could divert much-needed resources away from essential educational and health services. This is especially concerning for schools already struggling with limited budgets and increasing costs. This mandate risks creating further financial instability for districts that depend on flexibility in their use of funds.
2. **Potential for Misallocation of Resources:** The proposed allocation of funds for stipends and internships, while well-intentioned, may lead to inefficient use of resources. The funding could be better used to directly enhance healthcare services and support the overall student population, particularly in addressing gaps in health and mental health services that are already underfunded.

3. **Lack of Focus on Direct Health Services for Students:** The primary goal of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program should be to provide direct services to students. The bill's provisions on stipends and internships may detract from the fundamental objective of ensuring that every student receives the health support they need in the school environment.
4. **Overburdening School Staff:** This bill may place additional administrative burdens on already stretched school staff to manage and oversee the implementation of these new requirements. Rather than focusing on service delivery, schools could be diverted to manage the logistical complexities of ensuring compliance with the stipulation of the bill. **For these reasons, we urge the Committee to issue an unfavorable report for HB 689.** Rather than imposing mandates that may limit flexibility and create additional administrative burdens, we encourage the committee to explore alternative solutions that provide schools with the resources and flexibility they need to deliver critical healthcare services effectively.