

## **Senate Bill 773 -Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Vaccination Orders**

Testimony by Brigitta Mullican, Rockville, MD 20850. LD-17

I oppose **SB 773 / HB 1135** because these bills grant pharmacists and state-level health authorities increased independent control over medical decision-making.

Maryland families deserve strong guardrails to ensure that medical decisions, especially those involving children, are made with full consideration of complex medical histories by qualified healthcare providers who know the patient.

Granting pharmacists authority to order vaccines sets a concerning precedent for expanding prescribing powers in the future. This shift could lead to inconsistent standards across the state, fragmenting care and creating confusion for families attempting to remain compliant with evolving requirements.

Even when labeled as “voluntary,” policies tied to insurance coverage, school entry requirements, or pharmacy protocols can indirectly pressure families into accepting vaccines or preventive interventions they may not be comfortable with.

I oppose this bill because it decentralizes medical decision-making, weakens continuity of care, and risks complicating children’s healthcare now and in the future.