

SB 773/HB 1135: Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Vaccination Orders: Please advocate to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Finance Committee and Health Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE SB 773/HB 1135**.

SB 773/HB 1135 would authorize pharmacists to independently order (prescribe or authorize) vaccinations for children as young as 3 years old without requiring them to administer the vaccine themselves, provided they meet training standards.

This expands pharmacists' scope beyond current limits (where they can administer certain vaccines under protocols but not broadly order them like physicians).

While expanding vaccine access sounds appealing, this change represents inappropriate scope-of-practice expansion that risks patient safety and undermines coordinated medical care. Pharmacists are not trained or licensed as primary care providers to assess full medical histories, contraindications, allergies, or individual health needs in the same depth as physicians or nurse practitioners. Allowing them to issue vaccination orders—especially for young children—could lead to fragmented care, missed opportunities for well-child visits (despite notification requirements), or inappropriate prescriptions without comprehensive evaluation.

Vaccinations are medical interventions with potential risks; decisions should remain under the oversight of qualified physicians who can integrate them into overall health management. This bill further erodes the physician-led model of care, potentially increasing reliance on retail pharmacy settings for medical orders and contributing to over-vaccination pressures or inadequate follow-up.

Maryland should prioritize strengthening access through existing channels (e.g., physician referrals, clinics, or current pharmacist administration authority) rather than granting prescribing powers to non-physicians for preventive treatments.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against SB 773/HB 1135**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important health care and patient safety matter.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals