



HB 1135 Unfavorable

Madame Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and Members of the committee,

My name is Catherine Garrett, and I am the Chairman of the Love Maryland PAC. We have over 3600 members statewide and focus on consumer protection in the healthcare sector. I am here to urge an Unfavorable vote on Senate Bill 773, which would allow pharmacists to order vaccinations for children as young as 3 without administering them themselves. While well-intentioned, this bill dangerously expands the scope of pharmacy practice at the expense of patient safety and comprehensive care. This is a special interest bill. This is a bill for padding corporate bottom-lines, not a bill about health or safety.

This bill could lead to inappropriate orders, especially for vulnerable children, where a quick pharmacy consult might miss critical details like underlying conditions. For example, live virus vaccines, such as MMR or varicella, are contraindicated not only for patients undergoing chemotherapy because they contain weakened viruses that can replicate uncontrollably in immunosuppressed individuals, but also for their direct contacts—like their children and spouse. Fragmented healthcare is dangerous healthcare.

If a pharmacist orders a vaccine but someone else—perhaps an untrained caregiver—administers it incorrectly, who bears the liability? The bill's safeguards, like reporting to ImmuNet, are insufficient without direct oversight. This isn't about convenience; it's about accountability.

This bill, like so many others we have seen since COVID, erodes the role of primary care providers. The Love Maryland PAC strongly encouraged an Unfavorable vote on SB 773. Thank you.

Thank you,

Catherine Garrett

Catherine Garrett Chair,
Love Maryland PAC