



Board of Nursing

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 808 – Health Occupations – Licensed Dentists – Administration of Vaccines – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (“the Board”) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 808 – Health Occupations – Licensed Dentists – Administration of Vaccines. This bill authorizes a licensed dentist to administer vaccines to certain individuals under certain circumstances. This bill requires a licensed dentist who administers a vaccine to make certain attempts to communicate certain information to the patient’s authorized prescriber and/or primary care provider. SB 808 requires a licensed dentist to complete a board-approved course, file a certificate of completion, and receive acknowledgement of completion before administering vaccines. Additionally, this bill establishes certain continuing education requirements for licensed dentists who administer vaccines.

The Board believes that by allowing licensed dentists to administer vaccines, access to care for Marylanders will increase in a reasonable manner. Individuals who may visit a physician for their vaccine may experience prolonged waiting periods in a crowded lobby. As a result, this may deter individuals from keeping up to date with their vaccine schedules. Licensed dentists will be trained, under the authority of this bill, to administer vaccinations in a safe and clean environment. SB 808 requires licensed dentists to follow a rigorous process of applying and maintaining certification to administer vaccinations. The Board believes that this process will help to maintain public safety by only allowing trained licensed dentists to administer vaccines. Additionally, licensed dentists are required to complete a board-approved continuing education class every other renewal cycle to maintain an active certification. Allowing licensed dentists the ability to administer vaccines to adults and children (within a certain age range) will be essential in fortifying herd immunity against preventable infectious and chronic diseases.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support for SB 808.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Iman Farid, Health Policy Analyst, at (410) 585 – 1536 (iman.farid@maryland.gov) or Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 (rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hicks", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary N. Hicks
Board President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.