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County Executive

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BILL NO.: **SB 67**

TITLE: Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Vaccination Administration

SPONSOR: Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 19, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 67 – Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Vaccination Administration. This legislation would authorize a paramedic to administer a vaccination that is on the recommended adult immunization schedule from the Federal Centers on Disease Control and Prevention.

The coronavirus pandemic has presented trying challenges for State and local leaders throughout Maryland. Measures put forth by Baltimore County Executive Olszewski at the start of the pandemic were not just necessary, but have been lifesaving. However, the monumental task of immunization still lies ahead. This administrative hurdle is not only logistically challenging, but will require a coordinated effort to vaccinate the population as soon as possible.

This bill would authorize paramedics in administering the new coronavirus vaccinations. These medical personnel would be required only to administer vaccines under the direction of an EMS Operational Program, Ambulance Service Medical Director, or other qualified physicians. This legislation would allow for more eligible vaccinators and help Baltimore County agencies be prepared to vaccinate the local populations efficiently and quickly.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 67. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.