

SB808: Health Occupations – Licensed Dentists – Administration of Vaccines
OPPOSE
Love Maryland PAC

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Distinguished Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Our organization is concerned about a trend in bills that would allow a variety of providers to vaccinate children, even though these providers are not qualified to do so.

- Young children are not vaccinated like adults. They have a complicated “recommended” schedule by the CDC that requires an assessment to determine actual vaccine appropriateness. Issues such as allergies, diagnoses (autoimmunity, immune system dysfunction, immune system suppressing drugs), current health status, and previous adverse reactions to vaccinations are just some of the things that pediatricians consider before determining what vaccine a child should have in a visit. They do not go by a checklist. At well-visits, pediatricians perform a full physical examination and medical history prior to determining vaccine readiness. Dentists do not have this expertise.
- No one is liable if a dentist gives an inappropriate vaccine, or if they administer it incorrectly. The Federal 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act removed liability from vaccine makers as well as the provider that administers the vaccine
- The sponsor’s office said that this bill is to address the Covid-19 pandemic. The bill should be amended to only include the Covid-19 vaccine. As it is, the bill includes all CDC recommended vaccines. There is no reason for these to be given in a dentist’s office. What physician is going to say, “I recommend that your child receive the Gardasil vaccine. Here is a prescription. Go to your dentist to receive it.”?
- Parents get very little time with their child’s dentist as it is. Most children have a cleaning by a hygienist and just a few minutes with the dentist to hear their assessment and x-ray results and to discuss future dental work and consults to orthodontists and oral surgeons.
- We are concerned that this bill represents a “cash grab” by dentists who have had a difficult year financially because people did not come in for cleanings and appointments due to the pandemic.

We respectfully ask for an Unfavorable Report from the Committee.

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Silver Spring, MD