



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 736 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccines

Hearing Date: March 2, 2021

Position: Oppose

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) opposes *Senate Bill 736 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccines*. The bill would lower the age that pharmacists can provide vaccine to children from 11 to 3 years old. The bill would also eliminate the requirement that pharmacists have a prescription from a provider before administering a vaccine to children.

As a network of federally qualified health centers, we serve a large number of children who are uninsured or covered through Medicaid. Well-child visits are one of our most critical services for children. These visits are important because they allow the family provider “to establish a relationship with the parents or caregivers.”ⁱ Immunizations are often the primary reason why parents make well-child appointments. At these visits, providers also render critical services such as developmental assessments, vision testing, lead screening, and fluoride varnishes. We are greatly concerned that parents will not bring children in for well-visits if they obtain vaccinations from pharmacists.

We ask for an unfavorable report on this bill. If we can provide further information, please contact Salliann Alborn at salborn@mchsmc.com.

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ⁱ Turner, Katherine. “Well-Child Visits for Infants and Young Children”. American Family Physician. September 15, 2018. <https://www.aafp.org/afp/2018/0915/p347.html>

