

SB 67 Emergency Medical Services- Paramedics- Vaccination Administration
Support Testimony of Rebecca Gilmore, MSN, RN, TCRN
Sponsor: Chair for Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
January 19, 2021

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Vice Chairwoman Kagan:

My name is Rebecca Gilmore, and I am the Trauma Program Manager at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland Medical Center. I am before you today in support of SB 67 Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Vaccination Administration. This bill would allow paramedics in the state of Maryland to administer a COVID-19 vaccine that has been granted an emergency use authorization from the FDA in accordance with the State of Maryland vaccination plan. This bill supports the Governor’s Executive Order Relating to Various Healthcare Matters No. MDH2020-12-08-01.

As of today, there have been 309,686 recorded cases of COVID-19 within the state of Maryland with 1957 persons currently hospitalized with this disease. 6129 persons within the state of Maryland have already died from COVID-19, a number that continues to rise daily at an alarming rate.

Maryland remains in phase 1A of the vaccination process. Hospitals throughout the state are working tirelessly on administering the COVID-19 vaccine, however, to date only approximately 2% of the population of Maryland have been able to receive their first vaccine dose. Having an adequate amount of qualified personnel is key to furthering the vaccination effort.

Permitting paramedics to administer the COVID-19 vaccine would provide a significant, positive impact to the current work force of health care personnel who are attempting to reach the citizens of Maryland with the COVID-19 vaccine. I feel strongly that the use of paramedics in this capacity is both appropriate and necessary at this time in order to assist with the control of COVID-19.

I urge you to support SB 67 and allow the COVID-19 vaccination program to move forward towards providing protection for your constituents, and all Marylanders.

Thank you

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