



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 736 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccinations – 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) 736 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccinations. This bill authorizes a pharmacist to administer certain vaccinations to individuals in a certain age group. Additionally, this bill repeals the requirement that individuals in a certain age group have a certain prescription in order for a pharmacist to be allowed to administer a certain vaccination.

The Board believes that by further allowing pharmacists to administer vaccines, access to care is increased in the State 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. Pharmacists, under COMAR 10.34.32, are already professionally trained to administer vaccines in a clean and safe environment. They have been an incredible asset for the administration of the influenza vaccination, amongst others. Allowing pharmacists the continued ability to administer vaccines to adults and children (within a certain age range) will be essential in fortifying the community's 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 736.

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).

COMAR 10.34.32 Pharmacist Administration of Vaccinations.
http://www.dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/SubtitleSearch.aspx?search=10.34.32.*

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hicks", written in a cursive style.

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.