

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the EHEA Committee,

I'm writing to strongly oppose SB 808 and urge the committee to decline moving this bill forward. Although this legislation has the intention of "helping with the pandemic," the reality of it in practice is far too expansive and permissive to be safe. We do not need limited, emergency measures to become permanent practice in Maryland at the expense of our children.

Is it truly appropriate for a child to visit the dentist for a medical procedure that should remain with their pediatrician? It is so important that we hold healthcare providers to reasonable scope of care, especially when it comes to our children. The childhood vaccination schedule is complicated and should be approached with the specific knowledge and intent of a specialist.

The only CLEAR benefit to this legislation would be to dentist offices' bottom line- did you know that flu shots bring in an estimated \$20 in profit a pop? Meningitis B- \$48 profit, HPV- \$50 profit, and Hepatitis B \$80 profit? There are other measures specifically designed to improve vaccination access during this time and there is truly no need for this legislation. When there are also CLEAR risks to the health of Marylanders and Maryland's children to be considered, this legislation cannot move forward just because it is economically favorable to one profession.

I am also deeply disturbed by the language in this legislation that suspends the training and education requirements in the event of a declared "emergency." We cannot leave caution behind in favor of speed- the potential for unintended consequences is far too great.

The question is not whether or not dentists **COULD** administer the vaccinations, it is if they **SHOULD**. I urge you to consider the strong opposition to this legislation.

Respectfully,

Jenna Butler
Annapolis, Maryland