

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my concerns about HB1040 (which would allow pharmacists to vaccinate children as young as 3).

I firmly believe in a trusting and close relationship with my pediatrician and the opportunity to discuss any concerns with her, whether it relates to our yearly check-up or acute conditions that may arise. Given that I am blessed to have healthy kids and do not utilize a pharmacy at all, I have no relationship with any pharmacists, however, I have been to many pharmacies in the course of my life and I find them to be chaotic environments, where errors can easily occur. A relatively recent article outlines this concern and the burnout that many pharmacists face: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/31/health/pharmacists-medication-errors.html>.

Why then is there a bill to burden pharmacists further and perhaps create more errors? While the flu shots are profitable for pharmacies (<https://www.fdsrx.com/how-vaccinations-help-pharmacies/?fbclid=IwAR2bTu3kPtMBASF6ATSVQIWYXkl3fgdTsbiajbpCYleNlxSSpD9xz3lrggU>), I would not like any children's lives potentially jeopardized by a haphazard shot (*potentially the wrong one*) given by an overworked and potentially unconcerned pharmacist. Additionally, the CDC schedule is a “recommended” schedule, whose timeframes may need to be tweaked based upon physician assessment – pharmacists are **not qualified** to make this assessment. They are not privy to medical history nor do they have the time to understand it.

If the root driver of this bill is access to reliable care via pediatricians, that is an issue that needs to be addressed directly and separately.

I do not believe that HB1040 is the right answer for any child. Please provide an unfavorable vote on HB1040.

Thank you,  
Margaret Stoklosa  
Gaithersburg, MD  
Gosia2200@yahoo.com