

Oppose HB 1040 – Health Occupations - Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccinations
Date: 3/1/2021

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass and HGO Committee Members,

I am a concerned Marylander and I do not understand why this bill is necessary. Last year Senator Augustine testified that this bill was needed to help pharmacies with generating more revenue, why is this being attempted again? This was not well received among parents like me and it is not well received NOW!! Now this bill is trying to make the age of children even younger - a 3-year-old toddler would be eligible to receive a vaccine in a pharmacy, without a doctor's prescription, according to this bill.

Please vote NO to this senseless bill. The best health outcomes for children occur when children are seen by their primary care doctors with their parents and their medical history is addressed in the private, professional setting of a doctor's office.

I would never take my children to a pharmacy to receive any type of vaccine. Pharmacies are busy with high foot traffic and often have lines of people waiting to pick up medications. Just last year, the New York Times exposed chain pharmacies for being chaotic environments that are endangering patients. Please read: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/31/health/pharmacists-medication-errors.html>

No 3-year-old child should be assessed for vaccine readiness in the middle of a crowded CVS, Walmart or Walgreens Pharmacy and NO Pharmacist should have to stop what they are doing every time a child comes in to get a vaccine. Pharmacists should focus solely on answering prescription questions, filling prescriptions, and making sure their technicians are well supported. Children have a complicated immunization schedule that requires a trained professional (pediatrician or primary care doctor) to assess appropriateness and readiness. The CDC recommended schedule is ONLY a RECOMMENDATION. It was put into place assuming that a pediatrician would do an assessment and physically evaluate the patient, prior to vaccination.

I am so sick and tired of these bills that continually try to give more and more power to pharmacies for medical decisions and evaluations that should be made by the doctor and patient. I agree with Senator Augustine, this is a money grab for pharmacies, and I do not think it is in the best interests of our children's health and well-being.

I urge you to vote no to this careless and reckless bill that will have harmful unintended consequences.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tracy Barr
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