



PO Box 716
Baltimore, MD 21233
202.669.0031 phone

Support with Amendments

Senate Bill 168 – Department of Health - ImmuNet and Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

January 20, 2022

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports Senate Bill 168 – *Department of Health - ImmuNet and Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations*. This bill makes updates to the membership of the Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations and also ensures that vaccines provided at nursing facilities, assisted living programs, continuing care retirement communities, and medical day care programs are reported to ImmuNet. As we have seen during the COVID pandemic, ImmuNet is an essential public health tool for a robust vaccination program. That is why it is important that all vaccinations are reported to ImmuNet regardless of where they are provided.

The Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations serves an important function in monitoring and making recommendations about the State's vaccination programs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there were a variety of issues related to children's vaccinations, including difficulty ensuring access to COVID-19 vaccine itself and keeping children up-to-date on their required school vaccines.

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care believes that school-based health centers, located in underserved schools across the state, can be a major component of ongoing strategies to close vaccination gaps. School-based health centers are different from school-health program, and it is important to capture their unique experience. Therefore MASBHC requests the following amendment:

On page 3 after line 17, add "ONE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND ASSEMBLY ON SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CARE"

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable report with the addition of our amendment. If we can provide any further information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net or (443) 350-1325.