

SB840 - UNFAVORABLE! This is another horrible long rambling bill. This bill contains not only the same COVID-19 vaccine passport provisions as SB839, it also requires the use of taxpayer dollars to promote and incentivize vaccination ie market vaccines for the drug companies.

It requires the Maryland Department of Health to submit a plan to the legislature which must include items such as measures to increase vaccination rates among the unvaccinated, even though many of these individuals made informed consent decision to be unvaccinated, recommendations to incentivize vaccination among people receiving benefits from the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and a strategy to incentivize individuals to receive a third COVID-19 vaccine dose and any future CDC recommended vaccines.

This bill also permanently allows pharmacists to order and administer vaccines to individuals who are at least 3 years old. It also authorizes pharmacy technicians to give vaccines. Do the pharmacists and technicians know these people's medical histories as a family doctor would? NO! Even with the corresponding training programs as provided by the bill, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians still lack the knowledge and experience of trained medical providers such as physicians and nurses who administer vaccines. This is irresponsible! The Maryland Medical Assistance Program provides Medicaid benefits. The provisions of this bill lay the groundwork for discrimination against unvaccinated people who rely on Medicaid for their health coverage. These individuals would be excluded from these incentives.

Each person at this point is aware of the COVID-19 vaccine, it's dangers and lack of efficacy. The people of Maryland do not need their government to make sure they take the vaccine or booster. This is an individual decision and no one should be coerced, bribed, threatened, intimidated or mandated to take this vaccine. **THIS WRETCHED BILL MUST BE STOPPED!**

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