



PO Box 716  
Baltimore, MD 21233  
202.669.0031 phone

## **Support as Amended**

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

Health and Government Operations Committee

March 21, 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. That is why MASBHC's supported the amendment to add a school-based provider to the Advisory Commission.

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](mailto:stiffin@policypartners.net) or (443) 350-1325.