



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

March 23, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 168 - Department of Health - Immunet and Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations - Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 168 - Department of Health - Immunet and Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations as amended. SB 168 amends Health-General Article §18-109 by removing the carve-out that exempts health care providers who administer vaccines in nursing facilities, assisted living programs, continuing care retirement communities, or medical day care programs from reporting to ImmuNet.

These providers care for individuals at high risk of morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases, and collecting this information from these settings is critical in staging an effective response to communicable disease outbreaks in the state. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that health care providers in these carved-out settings have the capability to report vaccination records to ImmuNet.

Additionally, SB 168 will update the membership of the Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations (SACI). This update will better allow the Commission to fill the seats as current statutory requirements are more restrictive and make it difficult to do so. This bill will not have a fiscal or operational impact on MDH.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the report, please contact Heather Shek, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, at 410-767-5282 or heather.shek@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Schrader
Secretary