

UNFAVORABLE

SB0372 Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Administration of Vaccines

Jessica Helms

Capitol Heights, MD

I am writing to urge an unfavorable report on SB0372. This bill removes all safe guards for the children it would affect.

First, it removes the need for a prescription. Without one, parents would be able to skip well visits to get whatever shots the kids needed for school or sports. While this sounds like a good thing it, it isn't. Pediatricians are trained to see things in children that a hurried pharmacist might miss. A pharmacist won't be checking to see if the child already has a fever and recommend delaying a vaccine until the child is healthy as a pediatrician would. Giving a vaccine in a pediatricians office also means that nurses who are used to working with children and given 100s of shots a day can make the experience as stress free for the child as possible. Imagine how much more horrifying it would be for a child to be given a vaccine in Walmart in front of a line of strangers who, quite frankly, aren't going to want to hear their screaming or know what to do with the awkwardness of the situation.

Second, the bill allows for literally *anyone* accompanying the child to get the child vaccinated for *anything* the person with the child decides they need. This allows even a babysitter to take the kids she's watching to the CVS on the corner and get them flu shots during the \$20 gift card incentives we see each year and walking away with one for each child in her care without ever even needing to consult the parent or legal guardian of the child. For people who have to rely on babysitting sites like care.com, this is a terrifying thing to have to add to that list of worries moms already have when leaving their child with someone new. No one other than the parent or legal guardian of a child should be able to make a medical decision for that child.

When I called Senator Augustine's office I was told the point of the bill was to make it easier for parents to get their kids vaccinated even if it meant sending a babysitter with the child to the pharmacy. What the bill fails to do is protect those same kids from people who would prey on them for extra cash in their pocket, from a parent with limited visitation who doesn't actually know what vaccines the child has received taking them down to get them vaccinated a second time "just in case" (notice that the flu shot doesn't need to be reported to their primary care doctor), or from a parent who doesn't want to bother with a well visit. Children need to see a doctor BEFORE a vaccine is administered to ensure they are healthy enough to receive it, not after.

Add to this the number of injuries currently on the rise due to pharmacists incorrectly giving a vaccine and we are going to see children with shoulder injuries that last a life time like we do with some adults, my grandmother included. She has vowed to never again get a vaccine in a

pharmacy after a pharmacist injured her with a flu shot. It's been eight years now and she still does not have full use of her arm. She gets them with her doctor and no one else.

<https://www.pharmacytimes.com/view/compensation-growing-for-botched-vaccine-administration> states, "Dr. Bodor noted that patients who receive vaccines at a pharmacy may be pulling their shirt down just a little, which could lead the pharmacist to administer the vaccine higher up on the shoulder. In contrast, patients receiving vaccinations in a physician's office may be dressed in a gown, which would allow for more space to administer the vaccine." With pharmacists already overworked, having them rush to give a four-year-old five shots at once while others are waiting in line is going to cause more injuries and more trauma for the child. I don't want MY child fearing going to Walmart or Target with me because she's afraid she'll get a shot there the first time she sees another child getting one.

Please return an UNFAVORABLE report on SB0372.

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