



February 27, 2023

[submitted electronically via: [mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov)]

The Honorable Senator Melony Griffith  
Chair, Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 372 (Augustine) – Pharmacists - Administration of Vaccines – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Finance Committee:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on [Senate Bill \(SB\) 372](#) (Senator Augustine). This bill will codify pharmacists' authority to order and administer vaccines to patients between three years old and 18 years old, if certain requirements are met. Pharmacists currently have this authority in Maryland during the federal public health emergency due to Declarations under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act. However, based on recent [federal guidance](#), the federal authority under the PREP Act may be expiring in as early as 73 days, on May 11, 2023, which will interrupt patients' access to vaccines who have come to rely on pharmacists to order and administer vaccinations.

APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States advancing the entire pharmacy profession. APhA represents pharmacists in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, specialty pharmacies, community health centers, physician offices, ambulatory clinics, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and government facilities. Our members strive to improve medication use, advance patient care and enhance public health. In Maryland, with 5,220 licensed pharmacists and 6,430 pharmacy technicians, APhA represents the pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians that practice in numerous settings and provide care to many of your constituents. As the voice of pharmacy, APhA leads the profession and equips members for their role as the medication expert in team-based, patient-centered care. APhA inspires, innovates, and creates opportunities for members and pharmacists worldwide to optimize medication use and health for all.

We also support the submitted testimony from the Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA).

Maryland pharmacists have been ordering and administering vaccines for patients between three years old and 18 years old since August 2020, when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued the [third amendment](#) to the HHS Declaration under the PREP Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. This amendment authorized pharmacists to "order and administer any vaccine that the

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends to persons ages three through 18 according to ACIP's standard immunization schedule (ACIP recommended vaccines)."<sup>1</sup> As beneficial as this temporary federal authority has been in expanding access to care and relieving some of the burden on an overstressed healthcare system, it is set to expire as early as May 11, 2023. SB 372 makes this temporary federal authority permanent under pharmacists' state scope of practice to minimize interruptions to patient access to preventive vaccines, lower health care costs and ensure Maryland can continue to meet its public health needs.

For these reasons, APhA supports SB 372 and respectfully request your "AYE" vote. If you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA, APhA Advisor for State Government Affairs by email at [mmurphy@aphanet.org](mailto:mmurphy@aphanet.org).

Sincerely,



E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA  
Advisor for State Government Affairs  
American Pharmacists Association

cc: Senator Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair  
Senator Pamela Beidle  
Senator Arthur Ellis  
Senator Dawn Gile  
Senator Antonio Hayes  
Senator Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.  
Senator Benjamin F. Kramer  
Senator Clarence K. Lam  
Senator Johnny Mautz  
Senator Justin Ready  
Michael Baxter, APhA Acting Head of Government Affairs

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<sup>1</sup> Third Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 (August 24, 2020), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-08-24/pdf/2020-18542.pdf>.