

## Written Testimony of Thomas P. and Tina M. Wilson

### RE: In Opposition to Senate Bill SB0372 - Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Administration of Vaccines

February 27, 2023

As citizens of the state of Maryland, we oppose Maryland **Senate Bill SB0372** as currently drafted. This testimony seeks to express our concerns around **SB0372**.

This bill is another attempt at Government over-reach, usurping parental rights and control over their children without articulating any specific benefits. The Government and the Government agencies such as the NIH and CDC have the funding and influence to try to convince parents to vaccinate their children, although the integrity of these organizations has been questioned based on their close connections with and funding provided by the pharmaceutical industry. In the final analysis, it is the parents that should make the decision and have control. The drafted bill does not appear to target any specific vaccinations but opens the door to any and all vaccinations now or in the future. While there may be some rationale for pharmacists having the ability to administer vaccinations, it should never be without parental consent, and never for minor children as this bill suggests.

We believe it's also dangerous to assume that minors have all the mental capacity to fully understand the implications of the vaccination decisions to achieve "informed consent". It's probable that minors would view doctors and/or pharmacists as having positions of authority that could inadvertently or directly coerce their decision. We have had personal experience with doctors who directly pressure and coerce children for particular treatments or medications and have resisted those attempts to the long-term benefit of our children.

The experience during the COVID pandemic appears to be lost on the sponsors of this bill - "one size fits all" policy of vaccine mandates added little of no value to persons under 20 years of age. In fact, the peer reviewed literature on the efficacy and side effects of the covid-19 vaccine shows clearly that for those 20 years of age and younger, the risk of harm or death from the vaccine is far greater than the benefit, especially if the infected individual is treated promptly. It is imperative that parents determine whether a child receive any vaccine. As a parent who is well acquainted with the facts, I should have the right to determine how to best safeguard my child...and so should every parent.

We oppose SB0372 and ask the committee to oppose it as well. Thank you for your consideration.