

Hello Health and Government Operation Committee,

I am writing as a Maryland Registered Pharmacist to oppose HB 1232. There are several reasons why this bill should be pulled and not considered for enactment.

Retail pharmacists are overworked and already have the burden of excess work, long shifts, short to no breaks, and constant interruption. There is clearly a safety issue every time a pharmacist has to change focus from prescription checking to patient consultation, insurance claim support, staffing issues, health and beauty aid inquiries, and vaccination requests.

Although I no longer work in retail pharmacy, I would never return to an organization that provides vaccination of any kind. For example, providers were asked to monitor Covid-19 vaccine recipients for 15-30 minutes for signs of anaphylaxis. However, when I received my vaccine at Safeway, my interaction with the pharmacist lasted 30 seconds. The shot was administered, and she was off checking prescriptions, answering phones, and ringing up customers. Any anaphylaxis would have gone unnoticed as I went about my shopping immediately after vaccination.

With children, immediate resuscitative care is crucial during anaphylaxis or other severe adverse reaction to medication. Pharmacists do not have the training to provide care during this situation, nor the time to monitor the many patients they may vaccinate.

As a parent, I am dismayed that the bill would allow a child to receive vaccination with a “caregiver” present and not a parent or legal guardian. The parent must manage the health and wellness of their child, and in no way should the state undermine that relationship. This bill is simply a back-door effort to allow childhood consent to vaccination as was allowed in SB378, to which I also am vehemently opposed (and ecstatic it was retracted).

In closing, please oppose HB 1232 immediately to promote parent’s rights and the safety of our patients receiving pharmaceutical care.

Sincerely,

Peter D’Orazio, RPh