



Testimony offered on behalf of:
EPIC PHARMACIES, INC.

IN SUPPORT OF:
SB0018 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccines
Hearing 2/13 at 1:00PM

EPIC Pharmacies Supports SB0018 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccines.

EPIC Pharmacies are positioned in hundreds of communities across the state and represent the front line of healthcare providers caring for Maryland communities and your constituents. As the most accessible members of the healthcare team, pharmacists are uniquely positioned to influence public health efforts to improve childhood vaccination rates and have demonstrated this ability when called on to fill the gaps left by other providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Current law has allowed pharmacists to safely and effectively administer flu vaccinations to patients age 9 and above without a prescription for many years. While these patients have easy access to vaccines for influenza, we receive many requests from parents to provide additional CDC recommended vaccinations to this age group and their younger siblings. Adult patients have made pharmacists their provider of choice for vaccinations because of the convenience that we provide and they want the same convenience when providing vaccinations for their children. This bill would allow any CDC recommended vaccinations to be administered to patients age 5 and above without a prescription, and would maintain the current requirement that primary care physicians be notified upon each instance.

Since the pandemic, many states across the nation have codified the provisions of Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act which allowed pharmacists to administer vaccinations to patients 3 years and older. The pandemic has demonstrated in no uncertain terms that pharmacists are proven ready to fill in the vaccination gaps of this important patient population. I urge you to follow the lead of these states and make vaccinations easier and more convenient for these young Marylanders and their parents by passing SB0018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian M. Hose".

Brian M. Hose, PharmD
EPIC PharmPAC Chairman
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