

Emily Tarsell, LCPC

**2314 Benson Mill Road
Sparks, Maryland 21152
March 28, 2024**

Unfavorable HB 76 (SB 18)

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and HGO Committee Members,

I am Emily Tarsell, a mother, licensed therapist, a concerned citizen and founder of Health Choice Maryland. We oppose HB76 even as amended for the following reasons.

It is the responsibility of our representatives to do what is in the best interest of the public, especially children, not what is foremost in the best interests of the medical industry. To appease physician groups, the amended bill narrows the vaccines that pharmacists would be authorized to administer to those **NOT FDA APPROVED, like COVID 19 shots**. There is a reason that these vaccines are not FDA approved. They did not go through the clinical testing that would have been required, especially for children, and they did not have the hearings for public debate.

In addition, the National Institute of Health (NIH) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) acknowledge a causal relationship between COVID 19 vaccination and myocarditis, a frequent cause of unexpected cardiac arrest among young people. [1,2,3,4,5] Other serious health outcomes like autoimmune disorders are also now being recognized.

We now know that the risk to children of any serious health problem from Covid are minuscule, so vaccination of minors with COVID 19 vaccines comes with way more risk than any potential benefit. Making the COVID shots more widely available to children and youth and treating these shots like they were innocuous it unconscionable.

HB76 even as amended, seeks to justify the administration of COVID 19 vaccines still under the protection of emergency use authorizations for a pandemic that no longer exists. That is a slight of hand which seeks not only to allow the continued administration of a liability- free NOT FDA APPROVED vaccine but also allows pharmacists to administer any future NOT FDA APPROVED, emergency use vaccine. That is like giving someone a blank check which is unethical.

We cannot know the risk/benefit of any future emergency use vaccines and authorizations for pharmacists should be determined in the future when and if the situation arises.

While this bill might be great for pharmacist to garner **liability free profits**, it is bad for the health of children and youth. Please vote **UNFAVORABLE for HB76. Thank you.**

Emily Tarsell, LCPC

[References:](#)

[1]<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-10928-z>

[2] National Library of Medicine <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10043280/>

[3] National Institute of Health <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9905103/>

[4] Vaccine and Immunization CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/myocarditis.html>

[5] **Sudden Unexpected Death Due to Myocarditis in Young People, Including Athletes.**

Kevin M Harris 1, Shannon Mackey-Bojack 2, Mosi Bennett 3, Darlington Nwaudo 3, Emily Duncanson 2, Barry J Maron 4 PMID: 33347841 DOI: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2020.12.028

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33347841/#:~:text=In%20conclusion%2C%20myocarditis%20is%20an,index%20of%20suspicion%20for%20diagnosis.>