



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
And Members of the Finance Committee
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: **SB 0018** – Health Occupations – Pharmacist Administered Vaccines – **UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

Parents and legal guardians are legally responsible for their children, and must be involved in every health care decision. No child should receive a vaccine without a parent's knowledge and consent.

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women opposes SB 0018 that would allow pharmacists to administer vaccines approved by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to children ages 5-17.

Not all vaccines approved by the CDC or authorized by the FDA are appropriate for every child.

The bill does not require parental consent or parental notification for a minor to receive a vaccine. If the child were to suffer an adverse reaction to the vaccine, a parent who has not been notified of the administration of the vaccine may not recognize the need for medical intervention. They would be at a disadvantage when evaluating the problem, and unable to accurately convey the seriousness of the situation to emergency medical personnel. The child's health could be in grave danger.

Is this needed to facilitate vaccinations for unaccompanied and undocumented minor immigrant children? Circumventing the rights and obligations of parents and legal guardians is not the answer.

Please give **SB 0018** an **UNFAVORABLE** Report.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman