

HB1315

Senate Hearing

Love Maryland PAC

Unfavorable

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Love Maryland PAC writes to voice our opposition to this bill. The bill, as it is today, does not even resemble the bill that was heard in the House hearing. We would have opposed it as it is presented to you here in the Senate. When this bill was first proposed, it was intended to ensure health insurance payments for vaccinations already approved, and not any future vaccines. This bill was about payment and had nothing to do with pharmacists being able to give any future vaccine that is approved by the Federal government.

This bill also mandates payment for FUTURE vaccinations, which was originally in the draft bill and then struck from HB as originally introduced in response to our concerns that we do not yet know what vaccinations will be coming down the pike during this Administration and future Administrations. Pre-approving vaccinations for administration and payment in a pharmacy is outrageous. We have literally NO idea what the protocols for future vaccines will be, what the storage and administration needs will be and what contraindicators for vaccination may be. This is dangerous, and bad for Maryland's children.

It also is not right to prohibit the Federal government from making changes to the childhood vaccine schedule. The schedule changes all the time. The HPV vaccine used to be three doses. Now it is down to 2. Hep B used to be given to young adults. Now it is given at birth. It is not appropriate for the state to deny the Federal ACIP to make changes to the recommended schedule.

In summary, this bill is nothing like the original intention to protect parental engagement with their pediatrician's offices by ensuring that insurance would cover currently approved vaccines. We urge all members of the Senate Finance Committee to deliver an unfavorable report.