



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
and the Finance Committee
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: HB 1315 - Vaccinations by Pharmacists and Health Insurance Coverage
for Immunizations – UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women oppose HB 1315 because it allows a pharmacist to administer vaccines to young children and teens without a parent's or legal guardian's approval or even knowledge. Three-year-old children may not understand what is happening to them and not tell their parents about receiving a vaccine. This could be extremely dangerous if a child experienced an adverse reaction after receiving a vaccine. Parents might not act quickly enough and would not be able to advise emergency health officials of why the child was ill.

Under HB 1315, If the vaccination is administered to an individual under the age of 18 years, "the pharmacist informs the child vaccination patient and **adult caregiver** who is accompanying the child of the importance of well-child visits with a pediatric primary care provider and refers the patient to a pediatric primary care provider when appropriate." Not a mention of parents.

HB 1315 increases the number and types of vaccinations that a pharmacist can administer to children under 18 years of age to include all those "recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices; or approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration" as of December 31, 2024.

While adverse reactions may not happen often, they do happen. They can be fatal and children should not be administered vaccines without their parents' knowledge and consent.

Please vote an UNFAVORABLE Report for HB 1315.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis

Legislative Chairman