

HB1315.MPhA.ChildVaccinations.FIN.pdf

Uploaded by: Aliyah Horton

Position: FAV



Date: March 27, 2025

To: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

From: Aliyah N. Horton, FASAE, CAE, Executive Director, 240-688-7808

Cc: Senate Finance Committee

Re: **FAVORABLE HB 1315** – Vaccinations by Pharmacists and Health Insurance Coverage for Immunizations

The Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA) and the Maryland Pharmacy Coalition (MPC) SUPPORT HB 1315 – Vaccinations by Pharmacists and Health Insurance Coverage for Immunizations, as amended in the House.

Changes are happening at Federal agencies that have broad ramifications for the evidenced-based administration of vaccinations around the country and in Maryland.

Pharmacists' statutory guidance and education requirements for administering vaccinations in Maryland are based on the recommendations of CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's (ACIP). The recent cancellation of ACIP meetings, regularly scheduled in February of each year, raised concerns within the public health community.

We are specifically concerned about the potential decommissioning of ACIP or other changes that could negatively impact this area of pharmacist's scope of practice.

As such, the amendments ensure that the most recent ACIP recommendations are codified, with the ability to accommodate new vaccines, as needed.

The bill, as amended, addresses our concerns and ensures that Maryland patients have access to pharmacist-administered vaccinations in their communities and other healthcare spaces.

MARYLAND PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION - Founded in 1882, MPhA is the only state-wide professional society representing all practicing pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and student pharmacists in Maryland. Our mission is to strengthen the profession of pharmacy, advocate for all Maryland pharmacists and promote excellence in pharmacy practice.

MARYLAND PHARMACY COALITION

Full Members

Maryland Pharmacists Association
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists – Maryland Chapter
Maryland Pharmaceutical Society
Maryland Society of Health System Pharmacists
University of Maryland Baltimore School of Pharmacy Student Government Association
University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Pharmacy Student Government Association
Notre Dame of Maryland University School of Pharmacy Student Government Association

Affiliate Members

University of Maryland Baltimore School of Pharmacy
University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Pharmacy
Notre Dame of Maryland University School of Pharmacy
Maryland Association of Chain Drug Stores

HB 1315 DeIGuzzone Sen Finance Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Delegate Guzzone

Position: FAV

PAM LANMAN GUZZONE
Legislative District 13
Howard County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations
and Health Facilities

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 216
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3083 · 301-858-3083
800-492-7122 Ext. 3083
Pam.Guzzone@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1315 – Health Insurance – Coverage for Child

Wellness Services – Immunizations

Senate Finance Committee

March 27, 2025

Good afternoon Madam Chair, and members of the Senate Finance Committee. For the record, I'm Delegate Pam Guzzone and I represent Howard County's District 13. Today I am here to present House Bill 1315, regarding childhood immunization.

As with several other health related bills put forward this year, this bill is designed to ensure that Maryland has, in law, the ability to continue to provide as part of its minimum package of child wellness services all the childhood immunizations which to date have been recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Protection.

Data shows that vaccines are effective and safe for children, in fact, they represent one of the most significant public health successes in medical history. They have dramatically reduced the consequences of diseases that once devastated pediatric populations, such as measles and polio. Bottom line, vaccinations have saved children from serious illness, hospitalization and long-term, negative effects of disease.

This, combined with the number of changes that we are seeing at the Federal level and the challenges to the CDC that have been in the media over the last several years, make it vital that we identify an approach to ensure the currently established immunization recommendations are maintained in Maryland.

This bill, as amended and passed in the House, locks in the recommended vaccinations of the CDC's Advisory Committee's as of December 31, 2024, OR, "at a later date to account for any new vaccines recommended by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices." The bill language is designed to ensure Maryland continues to cover proven vaccines as part of its child wellness services.

Given the uncertainty and with an outbreak of Measles currently taking place in the Country, it seems both prudent and imperative that we maintain high levels of childhood immunization in the State.

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1315. Thank you.

HB1315 Senate Crossover 2025 NAPNAP.pdf

Uploaded by: JD Murphy

Position: FAV

March 25th, 2025

Maryland Senate
Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Maryland Chesapeake Chapter, we are writing to express our **strong support of HB 1315, Health Insurance - Coverage for Child Wellness Services - Immunizations.**

This important bill integrates the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations into state regulations, ensuring vaccines are fully covered during wellness visits. As APRNs, we recognize that making vaccines a part of routine wellness visits is essential for safeguarding the health of children and protecting the well-being of communities as a whole. The AAP provides evidence-based guidelines that are essential for optimal pediatric health, including a comprehensive list of vaccines that prevent serious, preventable diseases. By aligning with the AAP's Immunization Schedule, this legislation offers an effective framework to ensure children receive timely vaccinations that will protect them from a range of illnesses. We urge the state to adopt the following key provisions to improve wellness visit coverage:

- **Full Vaccination Coverage in Line with the AAP Immunization Schedule:** Health insurers should be required to fully cover all vaccines recommended by the AAP during wellness visits, without co-pays or cost-sharing. This includes vaccines for routine childhood diseases, as well as preventable illnesses like influenza, HPV, and meningitis.
- **Accessibility to Catch-Up Vaccinations:** In cases where children have missed scheduled vaccinations, AAP guidelines advocate for catch-up immunizations during wellness visits. Ensuring insurance coverage for these catch-up vaccinations is critical to maintaining herd immunity and preventing disease outbreaks.
- **Prevention of Out-of-Pocket Costs for Families:** Many families face financial challenges in accessing essential healthcare. By fully covering vaccines during wellness visits, we can eliminate these financial barriers, improve vaccine coverage rates, and reduce preventable health issues in our communities.

Adopting the AAP's recommendations will not only align our state with best practices for pediatric health but also ensure equitable access to essential preventive care. This policy shift will help reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases and contribute to long-term healthcare cost savings. This bill represents a vital step forward in improving public health, and we look forward to the positive impact it will have on the health of children and families across our state.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **HB 1315, Health Insurance - Coverage for Child Wellness Services – Immunizations and request a**

favorable report. The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners membership includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who are committed to improving the health and advocating for Maryland's pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Chesapeake Chapter legislative committee or president, Dr. Yvette Laboy at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Yvette Laboy

Dr. Yvette Laboy DNP, CPNP-AC, CCRN, CPN
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners (NAPNAP)
Chesapeake Chapter President

Evgenia Ogorodova

Dr. Evgenia Ogorodova DNP, CPNP-PC
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners (NAPNAP)
Chesapeake Chapter Legislative Co-Chair

Lindsay J. Ward

Ms. Lindsay Ward MS, CPNP-PC, IBCLC
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners (NAPNAP)
Chesapeake Chapter Immediate Past-President

Jessica D. Murphy

Dr. Jessica D. Murphy DNP, CPNP-AC, CPHON, CNE
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners (NAPNAP)
Chesapeake Chapter Legislative Co-Chair

HB 1315 - FIN - MDH - LOSAA.docx (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Meghan Lynch

Position: FWA



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: House Bill 1315 – Vaccinations by Pharmacists and Health Insurance Coverage for Immunizations - Letter of Support as Amended

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for House Bill (HB) 1315 – Vaccinations by Pharmacists and Health Insurance Coverage for Immunizations, as amended.

Traditionally, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meets three times per year to review data and vote on vaccine recommendations. The child and adolescent immunization schedule is then updated, and the ACIP seeks approval from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and several national healthcare provider organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Upon approval, the updated schedule is published annually on the CDC immunization schedule website.¹

The Department supports HB 1315, as amended, as it seeks to ensure that childhood immunization services continue to be covered by health insurers.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA
Acting Secretary

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules>

HB 1315 - Pharmacist Administered Vaccines - Unfav

Uploaded by: Ella Ennis

Position: UNF



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women
PO Box 6040, Annapolis MD 21401
Email: eee437@comcast.net

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

HB1315 SFC Hearing 3.27.25.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Cusack

Position: UNF

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.

Written Testimony for HB 1315_ Vaccinations by Ph

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: UNF

Written Testimony for **HB 1315**: Vaccinations by Pharmacists and Health Insurance Coverage for Immunizations - Please **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Dear Finance Committee:

I cannot urge all of you strongly enough to **vote against HB 1315, OPPOSING** this dangerous bill!!

I do not want the bill to leave the Finance Committee because this bill is too important to rush through at the end of the legislative Why? This is because it is too controversial a topic to be passed. It denies parents their Constitutional right to be **in charge of** their children's upbringing.

Also, **HB 1315 endangers our children**, because almost anyone can claim to be a "caregiver" and have a child vaccinated without the parents' or legal guardians' knowledge or consent. What if the parents or legal guardians have knowledge of a medical condition or an allergy that a child has to any of the ingredients of a vaccine that may indicate that any particular vaccine is contraindicated for a child? If a "caregiver" then takes the child and gets them vaccinated, that child could have a fatal adverse reaction and DIE!!

This is dangerous legislation. **Pharmacies are chaotic** and inappropriate places for very young children to be vaccinated. If a pharmacist is overwhelmingly busy, (and, let's face it, when are they not overwhelmingly busy?), they could mistakenly give a child the incorrect vaccine or an incorrect dosage of a vaccine, which has happened at various pharmacies around the world with the Covid vaccine, as well as here in the United States! My very own pharmacy is chaotic, to say the very least, and has been, at times, three days "behind" in filling prescriptions that people need to maintain their life. Now, imagine having the pharmacist also have to give vaccines to screaming children who are with a person that is NOT their loving parent or legal guardian? That is a recipe for disaster!! I would not want, let alone TRUST, my local pharmacist to vaccinate my children. I would want that to happen in my local pediatricians office or my Primary Care doctor's office. Those are the people that

have been treating my child since birth and know my child the best. **Pharmacists do not have** anywhere near the same **medical information on your child, and any and all specific medical conditions or allergies that come with your child**, as your pediatrician's office does! Pharmacies simply do not have access to this private medical information. Pediatricians are specifically trained to assess children for vaccine appropriateness and readiness. **Pharmacists are not sufficiently trained to assess children for vaccine appropriateness and readiness**, even with the two hour "...continuing pharmaceutical education related to immunizations..." that is stipulated in this bill. Pharmacists will start making even more mistakes if they are giving pediatric vaccines. It is dangerous for the child and for the customers getting pharmaceuticals to have a pharmacist stop filling a prescription every time a child walks up for a shot. The best health outcomes for our children occur when the parents and the pediatrician work as a team and consider health history, prior medical conditions, precautions that should be taken, and any and all contraindications before making any medical decisions!

Now more than ever we need children to go to see their primary care provider for well visits. Because of the state's damaging Covid policies, statistics are showing a skyrocketing increase in speech and language delays and mental health problems. This bill will keep children from going to the primary care doctor or pediatrician, which could potentially significantly increase the number and severity of speech and language delays and mental health problems, as well as neurodevelopmental issues.

A few other points I would like to make are as follows:

Children cannot and should not be vaccinated like adults and have a very complicated schedule, sometimes receiving multiple shots at once, which is another practice I would not recommend. **Children have fragile immune systems** and stand more of a chance of having a catastrophic adverse reaction if more than one vaccine is given at a time.

Immunizations are pharmaceutical products that come with warnings, precautions, and contraindications, and a list of possible adverse side effects. **A child must be properly medically assessed prior to administration of any vaccine or medication to reduce the risk for serious harm and/or death.** Again, a pharmacist does not have this training. Only a child's pediatrician or a licensed medical doctor does.

The Federal 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act removed liability for vaccine makers, as well as from the provider that administers the vaccines. **Pharmacists have not been trained in assessment for childhood vaccines and will NOT be liable for any mistakes, leaving our children at risk for potential catastrophic adverse side effects or adverse permanent conditions.** This will leave a child's family "holding the bag" for any and all medical expenses related to injuries received from a vaccine.

SIRVA (Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration) Injuries are on the rise since pharmacies started giving immunizations. A skyrocketing number of cases have been compensated by the federal government, as more people are getting their immunizations outside of the doctor's office.

Here are some articles that I implore you to read before voting on this bill:

https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2023/10/26/pharmacy-chains-dangerous-conditions-medication-errors/71153960007/?fbclid=IwAR0R_qyUKQxRyeupT1_I6pob1cR-x7Lq_YoUwY9-wXX5ySYc2II7Jxo1H14

https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/what-s-gone-wrong-at-pharmacies-a-cvs-store-in-virginia-beach-holds-the-answer/ar-BB1i0N1F?ocid=msedgntp&pc=NMTS&cvid=bd0086755d7e4f0caa1e92fb99b90e48&ei=174&fbclid=IwAR2rVVtliKUeENFla8KHbJYkuF-gBS_x9b1TqXQo97TBoifSXRnLvmyG8W8

https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/careers/mistakes-at-work-happen-for-pharmacist-s-it-can-end-their-career/ar-AA1ID6zy?ocid=msedgntp&pc=NMTS&cvid=ce22038c735843ff8ea78934a14c55b2&ei=137A&fbclid=IwAR1no32_EV29cCvH08BgOCDg9DJuY7QVL47WjCZhK7RmP15RQTMKzb_K6qo

<https://www.axios.com/2024/02/06/pharmacy-staffing-shortage-burnout?fbclid=IwAR1XGeifBeGPybpyDNjqxRoZrGx-jtDT9H4CIQJD-h3GCUpytPI27Zhk30o>

***We need a 3-legged stool approach for safe medical care for our children. This stool includes the physician, the parent, and the child. I will fight any bills that remove any part of this. This bill removes the physician, and I know that there also have been and there will continue to be other bills that want minor consent to be the standard, thereby removing the parent, leaving the child completely open to the greedy pharmaceutical industry.

Therefore, please **VOTE NO** on this bill. This bill would be disastrous for our children and families in Maryland!

Thank you for your time and attention. I truly appreciate it.

Trudy Tibbals