



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

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: House Bill 1315 – Health Insurance – Coverage for Child Wellness Services – Immunizations – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 1315 – Coverage for Child Wellness Services – Immunizations. HB 1315 adds the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) published immunization schedule for children and adolescents by age as an alternative to the immunization schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the list of child wellness services for which certain health insurers and nonprofit health service plans are required to provide coverage.

Currently, the 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 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 believes that the immunization component of the childhood wellness services must be protected and continue to be covered by health insurers. HB 1315 accomplishes this by offering an alternative to ACIP recommendations in the case that ACIP cannot make vaccine scheduling recommendations. The AAP is the leading professional organization in the United States for pediatricians and is a strong, respected, and powerful advocate for children and immunizations.

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,

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ryan Moran, Dr. PH, MHSA
Acting Secretary