

Maryland Association of School Health Nurses



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 1315 – Health Insurance – Coverage for Child Wellness Services - Immunizations

Hearing Date: March 6, 2025

Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) supports *House Bill 1315 – Health Insurance – Coverage for Child Wellness Services*. The bill adds the recommendation immunization schedule of the American Academy of Pediatrics as an alternative standard for health insurance coverage. Maryland law currently requires state-regulated insurance plans to cover childhood immunizations based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

MASHN supports this legislation because we are concerned about changing federal policy on childhood immunizations. This legislation would ensure Maryland’s coverage policies would continue to be based on peer-reviewed scientific data. Globally, childhood immunizations save the lives of 2 to 3 million children a year.¹

We ask for a consideration of an amendment to extend this bill to children covered through the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. We want to safeguard the health of all Maryland children.

We ask for a favorable report with a Medicaid amendment. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

¹ Nandi A, Shet A. Why vaccines matter: understanding the broader health, economic, and child development benefits of routine vaccination. *Hum Vaccin Immunother*. 2020 Aug 2;16(8):1900-1904. doi: 10.1080/21645515.2019.1708669. Epub 2020 Jan 24. PMID: 31977283; PMCID: PMC7482790.