



Date: March 10, 2025

To: The Honorable Joceyln Pena-Melnyk, Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

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

Sherrie Sims, GS Proctor & Associates, 410-733-7171

Cc: House, Health and Government Operations Committee

Re: **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT**– HB 1315 – Health Insurance - Coverage for Child Wellness Services - Immunizations

The Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA) SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENT HB 1315 – Health Insurance - Coverage for Child Wellness Services - Immunizations

Changes are happening at the Federal agencies that have broad ramifications for the provision of vaccinations around the country and in Maryland. Pharmacists' ability to vaccinate in Maryland is largely based on the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP). The recent cancellation of ACIP meetings, regularly scheduled in February of each year, has 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.

We respectfully request the following amendment in Health Occupations 12-508 to protect and clarify the parameters of the types of vaccinations pharmacists may administer to children. We believe adding the American Academy of Pediatrics' schedule, as identified in the bill, and referencing the most recent ACIP guidelines will address the issue.

AMENDMENT 1

(a)(2) Subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, a pharmacist who has met the requirement of paragraph (1)(ii) through (vi) of this subsection may administer to an individual who is at least 7 years old a vaccination that is:

- (i) **THE MOST RECENT** Recommendations **OF** the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices; ~~or~~
- (ii) Approved or authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration; **OR**
- (iii) **THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS IN ITS CHILD AND ADOLESCENT IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE BY AGE.**

AMENDMENT 2

Request an emergency effective date for the above-mentioned addition to the bill.

We do have concerns that other avenues of pharmacist administration of vaccinations need to be addressed within Maryland law, with an effective date that is more immediate, to ensure the profession can continue to provide life-saving and public health-protecting vaccinations without gaps in service.