



Maryland Community Health System

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 Community Health System supports *House Bill 1315 Health Insurance - Coverage for Child Wellness Services – Immunizations*. This bill provides that the package of childhood immunizations required to be covered under state law may be recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in its child and adolescent immunization schedule by age, rather than by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) exclusively.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers providing primary, behavioral health, and dental services to underserved communities across Maryland. According to the CDC website, CDC sets the immunization schedules based on ACIP's recommendations. However, the same CDC source further states that childhood and adolescent schedules are also approved by AAP, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.¹ However, under the current administration, there is real concern that the CDC may change its recommendations based on unscientific conspiracy theories. Allowing the package of immunizations to be recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics will keep the immunizations required under state law consistent with reliable scientific recommendations.

We ask for a consideration of an amendment to apply this legislation to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. We want to ensure equitable access to immunizations for all Maryland's children.

We ask for a favorable report with an amendment to extend the legislation to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-children/schedules/who-sets.html>