



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SB0385: Public Health- Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services- Pharmacist Administration and Required Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda Kohn, President

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland believes that every resident should have access to affordable, equitable, quality health care, including preventive care. The League thus supports Senate Bill 385, which would ensure the continued availability and insurance coverage for all medically necessary immunizations in Maryland, regardless of possible federal actions and decisions.

Quality health care is based on scientific research and evidence-based medicine, not on politics. The Vax Act, as part of Governor Moore's legislative agenda, would guarantee Marylanders' access to vaccines and preventive treatment deemed necessary by recognized, respected medical organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and not by organizations that can be swayed by political pressures. Maryland's Secretary of Health would be granted the authority to issue recommendations for immunizations, screenings, and preventive services. The bill would also reconfirm pharmacists' authority to administer vaccines.

After the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recent decision to reduce the number of universally recommended childhood vaccines from 17 to 11, the Chair of the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases noted "Anytime a child goes without recommended immunizations, they're at risk for diseases that we can prevent with a very simple, safe, effective intervention. All of these diseases can be severe, they're all life-threatening, and often have lifelong consequences."¹

The Vax Act will counter the efforts to undermine trust in vaccine science that reduce access to immunizations and other preventive public health measures. The League and its 2,000 members urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 385.

¹ <https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/34104/AAP-CDC-plan-to-remove-universal-childhood-vaccine?autologincheck=redirected>