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**Date:** February 10, 2026

**Bill # / Title:** Senate Bill 385 - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services – Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Position:** Support

The Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) appreciates the opportunity to share its support for Senate Bill 385.

Senate Bill 385 amends §§ 18-328 through 332, § 12-508 of the Health Occupations Article, and §§ 15-1A-10 and 15-817 of the Insurance Article relating to recommendations and coverage for preventive services. The bill also creates § 18-112 of the Health General Article which lists scientific organizations upon whose guidance recommendations may be based. The Secretary must make recommendations in accordance with, or shall at least consider the applicable guidance of, the following organizations:

- The American Academy of Pediatrics
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- The American Academy of Family Physicians
- The Maryland Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including the Health Resources and Services Administration
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, including the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee
- The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

Centralizing this information in one section simplifies statutory interpretation so that future references to recommendations by the Secretary of Health in accordance with § 18-112 of the Health General Article encompass these guidelines and, in the event that it is determined an organization should no longer be considered a guiding body with regard to preventive health care, only this section will require amendment. The bill also ensures that the recommendations of the Secretary for preventive care made pursuant to § 18-112 of the Health General Article are covered without cost-sharing requirements under non-grandfathered health benefit plans offered by carriers. The element is important to provide equitable access to preventative services, which lay the foundation for health and have immeasurable impact across the State.

It is important to note that this bill, as drafted, does not create a new mandate for preventive care services. The intent of Senate Bill 385 is not to require carriers to cover new types of services, but merely to change the governing authority that identifies the types of services that are considered “preventive,” and therefore are already required to be covered under existing law. The bill’s main purpose is to ensure that recommendations are made by credible health organizations and can be used to inform essential care with corresponding coverage by insurance carriers. It is intended to expand the accessibility and accuracy of preventative services to improve the health of Marylanders in the long term.

For the reasons set forth above, the MIA respectfully requests a favorable committee report on Senate Bill 385 and thanks the Committee for the opportunity to share its support.