



Committee: Senate Finance

Bill Number: Senate Bill 385 - Public Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)

Hearing Date: February 10, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly for School-Based Health Care and the Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) strongly support Senate Bill 385 - Public Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act). The legislation requires the Secretary of Health to issue recommendations for immunizations, screenings, and preventive services for infants, children, and adults that follow the generally accepted consensus within the scientific community and sound clinical guidance. This bill updates pharmacists' authority to administer vaccines based on the Maryland Secretary of Health's recommendation and aligns insurance coverage for state-regulated insurance plans with the recommendations.

In a time of rising vaccine hesitancy and growing outbreaks of preventable disease, this moment demands stability and greater trust in science and vaccines that have proven to be safe for decades. We support this legislation because it will help ensure Marylanders continue to have access to vaccinations based on the scientific evidence.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.