

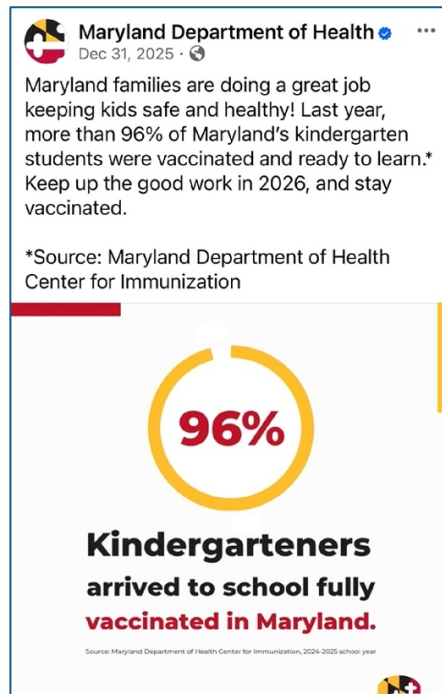
**SB0385- The Governor's Vax Act 2026**  
**Alliance for Science Based Policy**  
**Unfavorable**

Good Afternoon Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Alliance for Science Based Policy (ASBP) has many concerns about SB0385 and asks that the Committee give it an Unfavorable report.

**Unnecessary:** This bill is unnecessary. While the Federal government has made changes to some recommendations for vaccinations in terms of dosage and appropriate populations, NO vaccines have been taken away and ALL Marylanders are able to work with their physicians to receive any and all vaccinations. Medical decisions are best made with physicians and patients, not governments, and Maryland is a leader in the nation for vaccination uptake.

Physicians are perfectly capable of reading CDC recommendations and AAP recommendations and coming up with their own treatment plan for individual patients. That is how medical care is supposed to work.



**Liability/ Med Mal/ Healthcare Worker Shortage:** Since 1986, professionals that administer vaccinations are protected from liability for any injuries and/or deaths that the administration of the shot may cause, through the Federal Law, the 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act. Liability is only given to administrators for shots that are regularly recommended through the CDC. If the CDC is no longer routinely recommending certain shots, but the state of Maryland is, healthcare professionals who administer those shots may be open to liability and lawsuits.

This liability would be for all administrators of vaccines including doctors, nurses, pharmacists and pharmacy techs, and would include injuries like SIRVA (Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration). This could raise malpractice insurance costs and lead to healthcare providers leaving the state.

In their Legislative Session Priorities for 2026, dated 12/22/2025, Medchi warns to fight any efforts to “weaken current liability protections for health care providers, such as legislation that repeals or increases non-economic damages caps, or that lowers standards for awarding punitive damages. Exposing physicians to higher damage awards increases their malpractice insurance costs and only worsens the State’s severe physician shortage.”

**Corporate Funded Advocacy Organizations:** There is also great concern about our state taking advice from professional organizations like the AAP. All of the organizations mentioned in the bill take enormous amounts of money from the very companies that stand to profit from their recommendations.

MAJOR PHARMACEUTICAL CONTRIBUTORS  
to the AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

