



**BILL: SB 385**

**POSITION: FAV - Favorable**

COMMITTEE: Finance

DATE: February 6, 2026

SUBMITTED BY: Maryland Department of Disabilities  
217 East Redwood Street, Suite 1300, Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Chair Beidle,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support for **SB 385 - Public Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)**. SB 385 requires the Secretary of Health to issue recommendations for immunizations, screenings, and preventive services for Marylanders in accordance with the generally accepted consensus within the scientific community and sound clinical guidance, drawing from authoritative medical organizations as well as federal agencies. SB 385 also specifies that the Commissioner of the Maryland Insurance Administration, when identifying services not subject to cost-sharing requirements, rely on these recommendations from MDH.

At a time of unprecedented politicization of health care at the national level, it's critical that Marylanders know that the State is providing scientifically sound information from trusted sources. This is not only important in terms of helping Maryland residents make informed decisions about their health, the recommendations from MDH have a material impact on many patients' access to preventive services, immunizations, and screenings covered through public or private insurance.

Access to preventive care is particularly critical for Maryland's disability community. People with disabilities receive preventive services such as cancer screenings at rates below their nondisabled peers. At the same time, people with disabilities often have greater health risks and are 2 to 3 times as likely to die from vaccine-preventable diseases. MDOD sees SB 385 as an important step in helping to narrow the gaps in health outcomes for people with disabilities by minimizing barriers such as misinformation or cost-sharing that could limit individual access to potentially life-saving medical services.

For these reasons MDOD requests a **favorable report on SB 385**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Beatty  
Secretary, Department of Disabilities