



**To:** House Health Committee

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

**Date:** April 2, 2026

**Position:** Favorable

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The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA) strongly supports 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 expands pharmacist authority to administer vaccines to individuals who are at least 7 years old based on the Maryland Secretary of Health's recommendations 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. This bill will help to protect the public against vaccine-preventable diseases by permitting pharmacists to administer state-recommended vaccines to individuals who are at least 7 years old. MdAPA supports this bill because at a time when federal immunization guidelines have changed with no new data justification, this bill will ensure that Marylanders continue to receive the recommended immunizations that have been proven safe and effective.

We ask for a favorable report on the bill. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).