



April 2, 2026

COMMITTEE: House Health Committee

BILL: SB 385 – Public Health – Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services – Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)

POSITION: Support

The Horizon Foundation is the largest independent health philanthropy in Maryland. We are committed to a Howard County free from systemic inequities, where all people can live abundant and healthy lives. The Foundation is pleased to **support SB 385 – Public Health – Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings and Preventive Services – Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)**. This bill would enable the Secretary of Health to issue recommendations around vaccines, screenings and preventive services in accordance with scientific guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

The bill would allow the Secretary to take into consideration applicable guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services but not be required to follow it. This is important due to the federal administration’s ongoing attacks on vaccine science. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently overhauled the childhood vaccine schedule, recommending fewer shots to all children despite decades of settled science. With increased and ongoing disinformation around vaccines, it is no surprise that the U.S. is seeing a resurgence in diseases such as measles, which had been essentially eradicated thanks to the adoption of the childhood MMR vaccine. The American Academy of Pediatrics’ updated vaccine schedule continues to recommend immunizations for 18 diseases and no longer endorses the CDC’s guidance.

Since our founding in 1998, the Horizon Foundation has worked to protect and improve public health in our community. Maryland must combat disinformation about vaccines and continue to follow the clear science to protect public health. For this reason, the Foundation **SUPPORTS SB 385** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report. Thank you for your consideration.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Christopher Fortune
CHAIR

Yvonne Commodore-
Mensah, Ph.D
VICE CHAIR

Gopi Suri
SECRETARY

Mark Cissell
TREASURER

Nikki Highsmith Vernick
PRESIDENT & CEO

Haksoon Ahn, Ph.D

Juliet Gilliam

Louis Huff III

Lisa James

Jordan McKinnie

Shannon McMahon

Yvette Rooks, M.D.

Scott Rose

Celián Valero-Colón, M.D.

David Wolf