

HB0637\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

02/26/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

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**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0637- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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

**TO:** Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0637, **Public Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)**

As reported by CIDRAP of the University of Minnesota *States, health organizations reject new CDC vaccine guidance*<sup>1</sup>

“The decision to change CDC’s childhood immunization schedule is reckless and deeply dangerous,” said Massachusetts Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD, in a statement [announcing the state’s rejection](#) of the new vaccine schedule.

The new CDC vaccine schedule, based on immunization policy in Denmark, “abandons decades of rigorous, evidence-based science and replaces clear public health guidance with confusion and doubt,” Goldstein said. “At a moment when we are seeing measles outbreaks, the resurgence of whooping cough, and a flu season that has already taken the lives of children in our state, this ill-advised federal action puts families in an impossible position and puts infants, children, and communities at risk.”

Maryland will agree with at least 20 other states in rejection of the federal government choosing policies that can have devastating effects on the health of its residents.

This bill will require the Secretary of Health to issue recommendations for certain immunizations, screenings, and preventive services based on certain evidence-based scientific and clinical guidance; altering the authority of pharmacists to administer certain vaccinations; altering the health insurance coverage requirements for certain immunizations, screenings, and preventive services; and repealing obsolete language regarding the pertussis vaccine.

Maryland will reject the anti-vax policies being promulgated by the Federal Government and the CDC in favor of science and common sense over vaccinations.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0637.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/public-health/states-health-organizations-reject-new-cdc-vaccine-guidance>