

THE VAX ACT/HB 637 - OPPOSE

Delegate Bagnall, Delegate Cullison, and members of the Health Committee-

Some of you may not need to imagine this as you're living it, but please imagine for a minute that you're a parent of a young child. Or you're a grandparent, aunt, or uncle. I'm a mom. I spend an awful lot of time talking to other moms, both in person and online. We are confused.

After years of being expected to explicitly trust the CDC (even when they were wrong about some things- cloth masks on two year olds?), suddenly now it's become popular politically to not only disregard CDC recommendations, but to enact legislation throwing it out. Your state governor does this. **Does health policy have a political party? Who are parents supposed to trust?**

You read "THE VAX ACT" and see that the Moore administration wants to follow guidance from the AAP, ACOG, and the AAFP, instead of the CDC. **All of these organizations have pharmaceutical sponsors, including the vaccine companies that make 100% of children's vaccines. The AAP is constantly recommending annual Covid and flu vaccines starting at six months old. You can't keep up with everything but you know even your own pediatrician didn't recommend the Covid vaccine at six months old?! Is the AAP out of touch with reality? And why would Maryland let state vaccine policy be guided by organizations taking money from the vaccine makers?**

The idea of the health secretary's new authority to make vaccine recommendations and requirements makes you think for a minute. **Shouldn't policy like this be created at the legislative level? Can I call and set up a meeting with the Secretary of Health like I can with my Delegate? Or easily get the Health Department on the phone? (You can not).** Why is this bill closing policy off to Marylander parents and shutting them out of the process?

I cannot overstate enough how confusing and disconcerting this all is for parents, with so much misleading press coverage and so many different states doing so many different things. **Maryland has an opportunity to lead here by prioritizing clarity and stability in their health messaging instead of by following a partisan political trend. I'm very concerned that if passed, this legislation- however well intended- will end up being a very unfortunate overcorrection with significant consequences.** I urge the committee to give HB 637 an unfavorable report.

Respectfully,

Jenna Butler
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