



Date: February 26, 2026
To: The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair
From: Aliyah Nuri Horton, FASAE, CAE, Executive Director, MPhA, 240-688-7808
Cc: Members, House Health Committee
Re: **FAVORABLE – HB 637 – The Vax Act**

The Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA) urges a **FAVORABLE report on HB 637 - The Vax Act**. This bill meaningfully future-proofs pharmacist vaccination authority in Maryland. The bill supports sustainability of pharmacy-based immunization services that continue to be critical for the routine to emergency public health needs.

After passing HB 1315 in last year's session, we understood that it was a protective measure and stop-gap for an immediate point in time. We appreciate the efforts of the Governor and the Department of Health in listening to our concerns, about the need to protect vaccine recommendations rooted in science.

HB637 ensures that the Secretary of Health's decisions on immunization schedules are grounded in guidance from organizations and entities that are universally recognized, by provider and public health communities, as arbiters of evidence-based vaccination recommendations.

The bill preserves and reinforces pharmacists' vaccination administration authority, within a framework that is modernized and adaptable so that Maryland has the flexibility to:

- Rapidly authorize pharmacists to administer new vaccines
- Expand use during outbreaks or emerging public health needs; and
- Avoid future legislative delays every time guidance evolves.

ALL protocol requirements remain, pharmacists must still:

- Operate under a written protocol
- Meet training requirements
- Maintain CPR certification
- Report to ImmuNet
- Notify primary care providers appropriately.

Insurance coverage alignment ensures the continued practical usability of pharmacist services. This provides for less confusion when interacting with patients, stronger payer alignment with pharmacist-delivered vaccines, and fewer reimbursement barriers when recommendations are updated.

We strongly support HB 637, it recognizes pharmacists as embedded in public health infrastructure. It reinforces their role as not just "permitted vaccinators," but as recognized implementers of Maryland's public health strategy and system-level preventative care providers.