

SB 385/HB 637: Public Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage **(The Vax Act):** Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Health Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE** Senate Bill 385/**HB 637**, known as "The Vax Act".

Maryland already aligns with established federal recommendations from trusted sources like the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), and others. Creating a parallel state-level system will cause confusion, politicization of public health, and divergence from national consensus—potentially leading to inconsistent standards across states and eroding public trust. **Mandating no cost insurance coverage for state-issued recommendations could also increase premiums and healthcare costs for Maryland families** without clear justification, especially when federal protections under the Affordable Care Act already ensure no-cost coverage for ACIP-recommended vaccines and USPSTF A/B-rated services.

Expanding pharmacist administration authority beyond current limits further decentralizes care from physicians and primary providers who have comprehensive patient relationships. This could compromise coordinated care, especially for complex cases involving contraindications or follow-up.

Public health policy should prioritize evidence-based, nationally consistent guidance over state-specific mandates that could be influenced by political pressures. Instead of adding layers of bureaucracy, we should focus on education, voluntary access, and addressing real barriers to vaccination and preventive care.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against SB 385/HB 637.**

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration on this important public health matter.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

