
Committee:	Health Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 637 - Public Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)
Hearing Date:	February 26, 2026
Position:	Favorable

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 637 - Public Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)*. The bill would grant the Maryland Secretary of Health the authority to provide **scientifically sound and evidence-based** recommendations for zero-cost health care services.

In 2025, Governor Wes Moore signed into law *House Bill 974 - Health Insurance - Preventive Services - High Deductible Health Plans and Enforcement Authority*, which codified in state law the preexisting zero-cost status for certain preventative services such as vaccines and contraception. This bill expands on that progress by giving the state the appropriate power to operate on behalf of the well-being of its residents. Furthermore, this bill is a necessary mechanism to ensure Maryland residents have unfettered access to health care – regardless of what changes any federal administration may implement.

As a provider of critical health services in the state, we recognize that one of the biggest obstacles for those seeking medical care is the high cost of services. This bill will continue, and perhaps even increase, our ability to provide patients with evidence-backed, preventative services.

To achieve the goal of ensuring a healthy Maryland, experts must be empowered to continue to explore every possible avenue for progress by respecting science-backed and evidence informed recommendations about health care. We ask for a favorable report on HB 637. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Vice President of Public Affairs, Erin Bradley, at erin.bradley@ppm.care.