



House Health Committee

February 26, 2026

House Bill 637 – *Public Health – Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services – Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)*

POSITITON: SUPPORT

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC), with over 800 members, is the State’s largest association of technology companies. Our vision is to propel Maryland to be the country's number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology. MTC brings the State’s life sciences and technology communities into a single, united organization that empowers members to achieve their goals through advocacy, networking, and education. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 637.

House Bill 637, known as the Vax Act, requires the Secretary of Health to issue recommendations for key vaccinations, screenings, and preventive services based on nationally recognized clinical guidance from federal and state medical organizations and allows pharmacists to administer a broader set of vaccines. Additionally, this bill strengthens public health by clarifying state insurer obligations, ensuring that preventive services are covered by health insurance plans in Maryland without additional cost to the consumer. It also aligns pharmacist vaccination authority with evidence-based recommendations. These provisions can improve access to care and help maintain a healthier workforce.

Requiring insurers to cover the full range of preventive services recommended by key public health authorities without cost sharing removes financial barriers that many Marylanders face when seeking vaccinations or routine screenings, particularly for low-income households that may struggle with health care costs.

Using science-backed evidence to recommend a wider range of vaccinations to the public with the support of both pharmacies and insurance companies can only serve to improve public health. For these reasons, MTC requests a favorable report on House Bill 637.

For more information call:

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