



February 26, 2026

COMMITTEE: House Health Committee

BILL: HB 637 – Public Health – Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services – Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)

POSITION: Support

The Horizon Foundation is the largest independent health philanthropy in Maryland. We are committed to a Howard County free from systemic inequities, where all people can live abundant and healthy lives. The Foundation is pleased to **support HB 637 – Public Health – Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings and Preventive Services – Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)**. This bill would enable the Secretary of Health to issue recommendations around vaccines, screenings and preventive services in accordance with scientific guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

The bill would allow the Secretary to take into consideration applicable guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services but not be required to follow it. This is important due to the federal administration's ongoing attacks on vaccine science. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently overhauled the childhood vaccine schedule, recommending fewer shots to all children despite decades of settled science. With increased and ongoing disinformation around vaccines, it is no surprise that the U.S. is seeing a resurgence in diseases such as measles, which had been essentially eradicated thanks to the adoption of the childhood MMR vaccine. The American Academy of Pediatrics' updated vaccine schedule continues to recommend immunizations for 18 diseases and no longer endorses the CDC's guidance.

Since our founding in 1998, the Horizon Foundation has worked to protect and improve public health in our community. Maryland must combat disinformation about vaccines and continue to follow the clear science to protect public health. For this reason, the Foundation **SUPPORTS HB 637** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report. Thank you for your consideration.

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