

UNFAV HB637

Denee Daly

Street, MD

UNFAV HB0637: The Vax Act: Pubic Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventative Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage

To Madam Chair, Senate Finance Committee and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my opposition to HB637 Pubic Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventative Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act).

A primary outcome of this legislation is the transfer of policy / decision making authority regarding immunizations to the Maryland Secretary of Health, an appointed, unelected position removed from the constituent discourse and accountability of elected officials. An unelected official should not have such concentrated, consequential authority over a state's health policy.

As the Secretary of Health appointments change, there is nothing to prevent their vaccine-related recommendations to change just as rapidly.

Another area of concern is that in this legislation, the long-standing policy guidance moves away from following CDC guidance and proposes to follow recommendations of trade organizations such as the AAP, ACOG, etc. These organizations receive significant donations from the very companies that profit from recommended vaccines.

All of this creates distrust and moves accountability away from elected officials.

Trust and accountability are well regarded as two crucial components of successful public health policy.

I respectfully request that you NOT pass **HB637: Pubic Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventative Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)** forward to a vote.

Thank you,
Denee Daly

Street, Maryland resident