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February 26, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, House Health Committee
240 Taylor Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Dear Chair Bagnall,

The League of Life and Health Insurers of Maryland, Inc. supports *House Bill 637 – Public Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act)* with amendments and urges the committee to give the bill a favorable report.

The League and our members are committed to maintaining and ensuring affordable access to vaccines. Health plan coverage decisions for immunizations are grounded in each plan's ongoing, rigorous review of scientific and clinical evidence, and continual evaluation of multiple sources of data. While health plans continue to operate in an environment shaped by federal and state laws, as well as program and customer requirements, the evidence-based approach to coverage of immunizations will remain consistent, with or without House Bill 637 – our commitment remains steadfast.

There are a few operational concerns that League members have that we have already communicated to stakeholders and appreciate their willingness to continue to engage. These generally include: (1) timing and the required runway needed to incorporate changes into contracts that renew on a rolling basis; (2) the list of enumerated medical societies and language that allows the Secretary, when appropriate, to add or remove from the list; (3) a public comment period before changes become effective to allow other non-named medical societies, professional associations to add input and expertise; (4) actuarial analysis to inform impacts on premium, utilization, and state fiscal exposure.

We look forward to continuing the conversation on this important legislation.

For these reasons, the League urges the committee to give House Bill 637 a favorable with amendments report.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Celentano", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matthew Celentano
Executive Director

cc: Members, House Health Committee