

As a Maryland voter and resident of Baltimore County, I am writing to urge your strong support for Delegate Nic Kipke's amendment to **Governor Moore's Vax Act 2026 (HB637)**. This amendment is essential to safeguard the integrity of Maryland's vaccine policy through meaningful legislative oversight.

Legislative oversight is crucial because it ensures **transparency, accountability, and public trust** in decisions that directly impact our health and wellbeing. Without such oversight, unelected officials could add new vaccines to the state's recommended schedule without robust debate or public input. For instance, in 2019, New York faced significant public backlash when changes to vaccine requirements were made rapidly and without adequate legislative review or public hearings. Conversely, states like California, where legislative committees regularly hold hearings and solicit testimony on vaccine policy, have seen improved stakeholder engagement and stronger public confidence in the process.

Delegate Kipke's amendment would require that **the legislature reviews and approves any new vaccine before it is added to the schedule**. This process guarantees that experts, community members, and policymakers can examine safety, necessity, and public concerns in a transparent forum. Such oversight not only prevents unilateral decisions but also strengthens the legitimacy and acceptance of public health measures.

In closing, I respectfully urge you to support Delegate Kipke's amendment to **preserve legislative involvement in vaccine policy**. Your leadership is vital to maintaining transparent, accountable, and trusted public health decisions for all Marylanders.

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