

# Virginia Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



**Virginia Chapter**  
2821 Emerywood Parkway  
Suite 200  
Richmond, VA 23898  
Phone: 804/643-6631  
lmunn@ramdocs.org

February 23, 2022

Dear Members of the House Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee:

On behalf of the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing to express our opposition to SB 672. Specifically, we are concerned with the provision that allows pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns to administer all vaccinations to children ages three and up.

**Virginia Chapter  
Executive Committee**

**President**  
Michael S. Martin, MD, FAAP

**Vice President/President Elect**  
Kristina N. Powell, MD, FAAP

**Treasurer**  
Natasha K. Sriraman, MD, FAAP

**Immediate Past President**  
Sandy L. Chung, MD, FAAP

**Executive Director**  
Leah P. Munn

**Chapter Web Site**  
[www.virginiapediatrics.org](http://www.virginiapediatrics.org)

While we would prefer all children receive vaccines in a medical home setting, we did agree to compromise on the age and had no opposition to House Bill 1323 that was previously passed by this committee. HB 1323 allowed pharmacists to administer vaccines to children ages five and older. We encourage the committee to consider amending SB 672 to increase the age from three to five, as it is in Delegate Orrock's HB 1323.

The reason we believe this is an appropriate age is because children receive an important round of vaccinations at age four, before they are allowed to enter kindergarten. This is a critical window of development prior to school entry for children. It is important children receive their vaccines from a provider who has experience and specialized training in delivering vaccines in a developmentally sensitive manner who can simultaneously provide services like developmental and mental health screenings, counseling about nutrition and injury prevention, chronic disease management, and other important issues that would be identified at a preventive visit.

This is also an opportunity for pediatricians to assess social and emotional development to be ready for school, as well as check for medical issues that will need to be addressed by school nurses- including asthma, food allergies, diabetes, and other chronic health issues.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the committee amends SB 672 and increases the age to five. Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael Martin, MD

President, Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics



