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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Government Operations and
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House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg
Before the House Health and Government Operations Committee
In Support Of
House Bill 1263
Maryland Department of Health – COVID-19 Vaccination Plan

Madam Chairwoman of the Committee:

Shortly after President Biden was sworn into office, his administration learned that there was no plan to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine. According to a [member of Biden's coronavirus advisory board](#):

“There is no plan, or was no plan, by the Trump administration in terms of distribution, how to actually talk to the public about these vaccines and educate [people] about why they're so important to their health.”

Consequently, each state has had to devise its own guidelines and procedures on how to distribute the vaccine. While many states have done well under these circumstances, some states have done markedly worse. [For example](#): Georgia, Virginia, and California are the furthest behind in distributing the vaccine to residents. According to the most recent [CDC data](#), “Georgia has administered less than 20% of the vaccine doses delivered to the State – the lowest percentage of any state in America.”

We cannot allow this to happen here. [House Bill 1263](#) would require the Maryland Department of Health, on or before April 1st, to develop and submit to the General Assembly, with input from subject matter experts and other relevant stakeholders, a comprehensive plan for vaccinating residents of the State against COVID-19.

The plan must include a timeline for providing a vaccine to all Maryland residents, target metrics for vaccinating each category of residents, a dedication of time and resources to assist affected senior citizens, a dedication of time and resources to disproportionately affected communities, and a comprehensive education plan on how Marylanders can combat the virus. me.

I urge the Committee to act favorably on House Bill 1263.

February 19, 2021