



A Network Of  
Independently Owned  
Pharmacies

Testimony offered on behalf of:  
**EPIC PHARMACIES, INC.**

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IN SUPPORT OF:  
**SB 440 – Pharmacists - Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use**

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
In the Senate - Hearing 2/13 at 1:00 p.m.

EPIC Pharmacies **SUPPORTS SB 440** – Pharmacists - Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use.

EPIC Pharmacies are positioned in hundreds of communities across the state and represent the front line of healthcare providers caring for Maryland communities and your constituents. As the most accessible members of the healthcare team, pharmacists are uniquely positioned to influence public health efforts in the area of smoking cessation.

Cigarette smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disability in the United States with over 16 million Americans limited by a smoking-related disease, amounting to \$170 billion annually in medical costs. Pharmacists are the medication experts who are ready, willing, and trained to identify the most appropriate medications or nicotine replacement therapy for these patients. Currently, there are 12 states that allow pharmacists to prescribe tobacco cessation aids with some having such authority since 2004. Other states are achieving higher quit rates thanks to the expanded toolbox that they have given to their pharmacists. Please help us bring this success to Maryland by expanding the authority of Pharmacists through passage of SB0440.

EPIC Pharmacies respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 440.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian M. Hose".

Brian M. Hose, PharmD  
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