



February 18, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support with Amendments – HB 512: Drugs and Devices - Electronic Prescriptions -
Controlled Dangerous Substances

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) is a state medical organization whose physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, MPS works to ensure available, accessible and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strives through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branch of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland excluding the D.C. suburbs, MPS represents over 700 psychiatrists as well as physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS supports House Bill 512: Drugs and Devices - Electronic Prescriptions - Controlled Dangerous Substances (HB 512), but asks the committee to consider exempting practitioners who consult with the United States Department of Defense (DOD) facilities. Currently, military pharmacies do not accept electronic CDS prescriptions, this includes CDS prescriptions sent via fax. Thus, paper prescriptions are still needed for those patients. Maryland has a great many military families stationed at Fort Meade, Fort Detrick, NSA, Joint Airbase Andrews, the Naval Academy, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, among others. Allowing this exemption would greatly help those patients as a DOD pharmacy does not have a no copay and no prior authorization is required, which is much more convenient for the patient.

MPS suggests the amendment read as follows:

On page 7, in line 22 strike “OR”; on page 8, in line 2 after “CONDITION” insert “OR”; in the next line insert “(XV) THE PRESCRIPTION IS TO BE DISPENSED AT A DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EPHCY MILITARY PHARMACY.”

With the amendment adopted, MPS would then ask the committee for a favorable report of HB 512. If you have any questions with regard to this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com.

Respectfully submitted,
The Legislative Action Committee for the Maryland Psychiatric Society