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Independent Pharmacies of Md.

Delegate Nic Kipke

2/13/2020

RE: Senate Bill 545 and House Bill 656 Pharmacists-Administration of Self-Administered Medications and maintenance Injectable medications

Please accept my strong support of this bill. My Pharmacy, located in Brooklyn Park, is in the same strip center as 2nd Chance, (a rehab or counseling center), and 1 mile north of the Methadone clinic located in Brooklyn. I have attended meetings at UN. Md. School of Pharmacy for opioid addiction, local community meetings, and help to distribute literature on opioid addiction. The number of Suboxone prescriptions, Narcan prescriptions, Opioid prescriptions and sales of bags of syringes in my area are shocking and demonstrate the catastrophic opioid epidemic we are facing. Of the many types of injections Pharmacist are already licensed and trained to administer, it is shocking that an opioid antagonist like Vivitrol, can only be given in a doctors office. This bill that would include special training in consultation with the State Board of Physicians, State Board of Nursing and Sate Board of Pharmacy could help stem the deaths resulting from Opioid as well as Alcohol addiction by increasing access to this medication.

This Bill also would increase access to other maintenance injections like certain chemo, birth control, HIV and other medications as would be determined by the Boards listed above. Access for those in college whose doctors are in one area and need injections done where they are. Those in Rural areas who may have to load their wheel chairs, canes, walkers, in a car and go sit in a doctors office to wait for their monthly injections would also benefit .

Sincerely,

Tom Wieland , Rph