



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Director of Government Affairs

JOEL N. BELLER
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **SB 499**

TITLE: Prohibition on Vending Machine Sales of Drugs and Medicines
 – Repeal

SPONSOR: Senator Lam

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 18, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 499 – Prohibition on Vending Machine Sales of Drugs and Medicines – Repeal. This legislation would repeal the prohibition of sale of designated drugs, pharmaceutical preparations, and medical preparations by means of a vending machine or similar device.

Access to health care facilities is a right that all Maryland residents deserve. However this right often operates as a privilege, and some of the State’s most vulnerable individuals do not have access to the health offices they urgently need. Many have neither the ability nor the time to travel to health facilities at a time they are open. Providing health vending machines to these communities can help individuals access the medications and health care they vitally need and at their convenience.

This legislation would repeal the ban of health vending machines throughout the State. Maryland is one of four states that outlaws this important health equity tool. As a state with some of the highest ranking health facilities nationwide, Maryland must continue to support policy that makes health care more accessible to everyone.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 499. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov