

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

## IN SUPPORT OF:

## HB 229 – Pharmacists – Administration of Maintenance Injectable Medications – Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections

## Health and Government Operations Committee Hearing 2/3 at 2:30 p.m.

EPIC Pharmacies <u>SUPPORTS HB 229</u> – Pharmacists - Administration of Maintenance Injectable Medications – Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections.

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 help patients with outpatient injectable medications.

Currently, pharmacists safely administer vaccines, self-administered medications, and maintenance injectable medications via subcutaneous and intramuscular injections. Thousands of Maryland pharmacists have undergone training to provide these injections to member of their communities. Allowing pharmacists to administer injectable medications for sexually transmitted infections will increase access for high-risk patient populations and directly affect public health by speeding treatment for these infections and decreasing transmission. Maryland pharmacists are qualified, accessible, and ready to provide this important service to our patients.

EPIC Pharmacies respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 229**.

Sincerely,

15-16

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