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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The Senate Finance Committee

**SB 647 – State Board of Pharmacy – Board Membership and Delegated Pharmacy Acts  
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza**

Thank you, Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the distinguished Senate Finance Committee for allowing me to present Senate Bill 647 – State Board of Pharmacy – Board Membership and Delegated Pharmacy Acts as amended.

This bill would codify provisions in the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, or PREP Act, that enabled the COVID-19 vaccine to be widely distributed and administered. The compromise amendments being offered have been worked through with MedChi and would conform to the House version of this bill. The bill would cover four areas:

- 1) This bill would extend the sunset of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy to July 1, 2033. The Maryland Board of Pharmacy protects Maryland consumers, ensures standards for pharmaceutical services, authorizes licensure of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, and resolves complaints. Without passage of SB 647, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy would expire July 1, 2023.
- 2) As amended, licensed pharmacists would be authorized to delegate the mechanical act of administering a flu vaccine to adults to one of their registered pharmacy technicians on site. Qualified pharmacy technicians have been successfully administering vaccines since August 2020 under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist and this has enabled wider distribution of vaccines, especially in rural areas.
- 3) Pharmacy technicians would be allowed to work remotely. Pharmacy technicians would be allowed to perform administrative work from a remote location. This would greatly assist the industry with recruitment and retention.
- 4) A registered pharmacy technician would be added to the Maryland State Board of Pharmacy. Pharmacy technicians play a critical role and should have a seat at the table.

Pharmacists are a linchpin in our communities as they are uniquely positioned to provide health care services to a wide swath of the population. With 88.9 percent of people within the United States living within five miles of their friendly neighborhood pharmacy, the bill would reduce barriers to health care such as reduction in travel time, prompt medical interventions, and more availability to services. This is especially important in rural areas where pharmacies are more likely to serve as the primary place of access to health care services for their communities.

I truly appreciate your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully ask for a swift and favorable report on SB 647.