



Date: March 12, 2024

To: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair

From: Aliyah N. Horton, FASAE, CAE, Executive Director, MPhA, 240-688-7808

Cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee

Re: UNFAVORABLE - SB 1016 - Health Occupations - Prescriptions for Children Subject to Joint Custody

The members of the Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA) recognize the challenges of managing child health and welfare under joint custody agreements and understand the intent of the legislation. However, we respectfully request and **unfavorable report of SB 1016 – Health Occupations-Prescriptions for Children Subject to Joint Custody.**

- MPhA members from independent, chain and hospital system pharmacies are unanimous in their response that the bill is not necessary to achieve the intended goal and that there are unintended challenges and consequences.
- One parent would have to pay out of pocket as the pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) will not approve an overlapping supply.
- On the pharmacy side, it would be an operational nightmare to process and document, while also raising an unnecessary red flag for PBM audits. PBM audits cost the pharmacies value time and staff resources to address.

What can be done without legislation:

Parents may currently do the following, without legislation in any hospital, chain or independent pharmacy:

1. Request the pharmacy to provide an additional labeled vial. The parent can split the medication, as needed.
2. Request the pharmacy to put the medication in blister packs. The appropriate amount of medication can be torn off and shared, as needed.