



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

Maryland Board of Pharmacy

Kristopher Rusinko, PharmD, Board President
Deena Speights-Napata, M.A., Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

February 25, 2026

Heather Bagnall, Chairperson
Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chairperson
Maryland General Assembly
Maryland House- Health Committee

RE: HB 838 State Board of Pharmacy – Prescriber-Pharmacist Agreements – Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders

Dear Chairperson Bagnall, Vice Chairperson Cullison and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Pharmacy’s laws currently authorize pharmacists to enter into Drug Therapy Management (“DTM”) agreements with prescribers to treat myriad disease states. The use of DTM agreements has been successful in providing Maryland patients with increased access to quality healthcare for over two decades. For example, DTM agreements utilize protocols for heart disease, diabetes, Warfarin management, antithrombotics, and oncology supportive care.

This bill would allow pharmacists to treat Opioid Use Disorder (“OUD”) with medication assisted therapy through a DTM agreement with a prescriber. The Board of Pharmacy’s DTM requirements are robust and include, among other things, advanced post-graduate training by the pharmacist, a disease-specific protocol, a pharmacist-prescriber agreement with detailed parameters, and a specific consent and agreement with the patient. Furthermore, this bill would require pharmacists who treat OUD through a DTM agreement to meet the same requirements as other practitioners who prescribe medication assisted therapy (e.g., buprenorphine).

The Board believes pharmacists have proven to be valued and accessible healthcare practitioners with doctoral level education and training focused on drug therapy. As such, pharmacists may fulfill an important role in addressing the opioid crisis in Maryland.

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
February 20, 2026
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To that end, the Board of Pharmacy requests that you return a favorable report.

Should you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deena Speights Napata
Executive Director