



Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Bill Number: SB 440

Bill Title: Pharmacists - Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use

Date: February 13, 2020

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) opposes *Senate Bill 440– Pharmacists – Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use – Prescribing and Dispensing*. The bill would authorize pharmacists to prescribe and dispense medications to assist patients in reducing or eliminating tobacco use.

ACNM supports the expansion of access to tobacco cessation products among Marylanders. We view pharmacists as valuable partners in counseling consumers about over-the-counter smoking cessation tools. However, we have deep concerns about the involvement of pharmacists in prescribing because:

- Pharmacists do not have the education to allow them to access or diagnosis the serious psychiatric disorders that can be side effects to the use of Chantix and Wellbutrin. Pharmacists also do not typically practice in settings that afford the level of privacy needed to discuss mental health symptoms; and
- Pharmacists do not have authority to either order or interpret lab tests, or manage lab abnormalities, that would be needed to monitor the kidney and liver functions of patients and make decisions about dosing, as is commonly needed for patients taking these medications.

Because of these concerns, we ask for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at (443) 926-4443 or relliott@policypartners.net.