



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES



Testimony on Maryland SB 545

**Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland General Assembly**

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**Submitted by:
Maryland Association of Chain Drug Stores
and
National Association of Chain Drug Stores**

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On behalf of the 931 pharmacies and nearly 3,400 pharmacists operating and providing patient care in Maryland, the Maryland Association of Chain Drug Stores (MACDS) and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) appreciate the opportunity to support SB 545 and its companion, HB 656. We applaud the leadership of the bill sponsors and this committee for considering this legislation to expand access to healthcare in the state by permitting pharmacists to administer a maintenance injectable medication to a patient at pharmacy healthcare destinations as well as appropriate corresponding coverage for the provision of this pharmacy care service. Modernizing Maryland's law to permit this practice will allow pharmacists to better serve Marylanders.

Pharmacists are highly educated, trusted, and easily accessible healthcare professionals who provide patients with important patient care services, including medication administration services. Notably, pharmacists, who are already permitted to administer vaccines to patients in the state, are well trained and experienced in drug administration techniques and practices, e.g., intramuscular injections and intranasal drug administration. Providing medication administration services is consistent with pharmacists' education and training.

According to the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, the majority of states explicitly permit pharmacists or otherwise recognize pharmacists' ability to provide this service to patients. Given the growing number of injected and infused medications on the market, this authority will allow Maryland-licensed pharmacists to offer medication administration services to patients who are currently limited in their ability to obtain these services from office-based providers, which is not always convenient for the patient (or the office-based provider) and can lead to noncompliance with prescribed therapies.

NACDS applauds the legislature's current efforts to enhance the delivery of healthcare and strongly urges your support for SB 545 and its companion HB 656, legislation aimed at expanding access to care by allowing pharmacists to administer a maintenance injectable to a patient at pharmacy healthcare destinations and providing for appropriate corresponding coverage for the provision of this pharmacy care service.