



A Network Of
Independently Owned
Pharmacies

Testimony offered on behalf of:
EPIC PHARMACIES, INC.

IN SUPPORT OF:
**SB 545 – Pharmacists - Administration of Self-Administered Medications
and Maintenance Injectable Medications**

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
In the Senate - Hearing 2/13 at 1:00 p.m.

EPIC Pharmacies **SUPPORTS SB 545** – Pharmacists - Administration of Self-Administered Medications and Maintenance Injectable Medications.

EPIC Pharmacies are positioned in hundreds of communities across the state and represent the front line of healthcare providers caring for Maryland communities and your constituents. As the most accessible members of the healthcare team, pharmacists are uniquely positioned to help patients with maintenance injections.

Currently, pharmacists safely administer vaccines and self-administered medications via subcutaneous and intramuscular injections. Thousands of Maryland pharmacists have undergone training to provide these injections to member of their communities. Allowing pharmacists to administer maintenance injectable medications will increase access for high-risk patient populations such as those with mental illness and opioid dependence. Many patients have trouble scheduling these maintenance injections around their day to day lives and pharmacists are qualified, accessible, and ready to ease this burden for them. Allowing pharmacists to help these patients with continuation of therapy, after their provider administers the first dose, will help them continue therapy by facilitating ease of dosing within their communities and at times that fit with their lives. This current bill has taken into account the concerns that were raised last session.

EPIC Pharmacies respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 545.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian M. Hose".

Brian M. Hose, PharmD
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