

SHIRLEY BUCK
HB316

February 11, 2020

State of Maryland Health Committee

Good afternoon Delegates, Health Committee and all others. My name is Shirley Buck, I'm a chronic pain patient of 20 years. I am also a Domestic Violence Survivor and a MVA Survivor of a rear-end impact of 65 mph who should've died twice. Yet, I have a purpose and I believe this is it. Having the voices of the Chronic Pain Community heard. I'm asking of you to please hear our pleas. We, the Chronic Pain Community, are unintentionally severely suffering from uncontrolled and under controlled pain due to the war on opiates. I survived a broken neck which went undiagnosed for 9 years with two surgeries, a broken thoracolumbar spine and crushed tailbones. I also have severe genetic familial RLS which causes my body to jerk and twitch uncontrollably day and night without my pain medication. I have tried every medication prescribed at JHH for this and opiate treatment has truly been the only relief I've had. Without my pain medication I would lose the ability to drive thus I would lose most of my ability to interact with my three grandsons. I never thought I would be in this position that I am in today, however, it has brought me to meet others less fortunate than myself and the opportunity to help them just as I come before you today asking for your help. Unfortunately we, the chronic pain community, are not the problem, however we find extreme issues trying to locate a prescribing physician, a pharmacy willing to dispense your medications and an insurance company not also giving us the run around. If a pharmacy doesn't have enough meds to fill your entire prescription you forfeit the balance of that prescription and must obtain another prescription from your physician causing another appointment then the insurance company will require a preauthorization because you've already filled part of your prescription this can cause a week or two delay in obtaining our balance of medication, which chronic pain patients cannot do. Some do not drive and are house or bed bound making traveling a major hardship on them as well. This all has caused us to become dependent on our government when we were productive members of society prior to the war on opiates.

I plead with you to please take into consideration our issues that have been caused by partial fill laws. I thank you all dearly from my heart for your time and consideration to these amendments as I speak before you today. Have a nice day.

Yours truly,

Shirley Buck