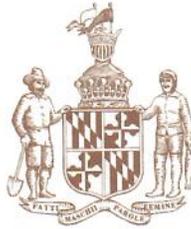


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Frederick County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations
and Estates and Trusts
Insurance and Pharmaceuticals



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Testimony in Support of HB 656

**Pharmacists—Administration of Self-Administered Medication and
Maintenance Injectable Medications**

Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair and esteemed members of the Health and Government Operation Committee,

HB 656 authorizes pharmacists to administer injectable medications on a maintenance basis to their client/patients following the mandatory initial injection administered by the prescribing physician. This bill allows pharmacists to provide patient-centered care to high-risk patient populations such as cancer patients, those with mental illness, or individuals struggling with opioid dependence. These patients require consistent and time sensitive doses of their medications to sustain healthy outcomes.

In states where pharmacists are allowed to administer maintenance injectables, patients have timely access to their medications and are able to avoid crowded waiting rooms, delayed and missed appointments, and the negative consequences of nonadherence, which occur when patients do not fully understand the side effects of missing doses of their medications.

In fact, U.S. Pharmacists found that “nonadherence is a pervasive and dangerous challenge. Adherence—taking the proper dose of medication at the correct time and for the recommended length of time—is critical to achieve positive outcomes. And yet fully 50% of patients do not take their medications as directed by their doctors, resulting in poor outcomes, reduced quality of life, increased hospitalization, and soaring healthcare costs. Negative outcomes are especially dire for at-risk populations who rely on long-term maintenance to sustain health stability.

In states that have passed legislation similar to HB 656, pharmacists have become active partners in the mitigation of medical nonadherence. Pharmacists administer maintenance medications, provide notes to patients’ physicians, send routine reminders

when patients are due for their next injections, closely monitor drug interactions and patient health status, and even work with physicians to address unpleasant side effects or drug interactions. In all 50 states and the District of Columbia, pharmacists have the authority to administer vaccines; however, only 44 states permit pharmacist to administer long-lasting injectable medications.

HB656 builds upon the expertise of pharmacists and their familiarity with and proximity to their patients. The Journal of American Pharmacists Association found that in states that have passed legislation similar to HB 656, 98% of patients were confident in their pharmacists ability to administer their medications; 82 % of patients said it was more convenient (to receive their medications at their local pharmacies); and 93% trusted their pharmacist as much or more than their doctor. Also 98% of patients reported they were completely comfortable with their pharmacists administering a variety of injectable medications

For these reasons, I urge you to support **HB 656**, and I request a favorable report.

Thank you,

Delegate Karen Lewis Young