



Committee: House Health and Government Operations
Bill Number: HB 1486
Title: Non–Controlled Substance Prescription Record System Program
Date: March 6, 2020
Position: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 1486 – Non-Controlled Substance Prescription Record System Program* with amendments. The bill would create a statewide database of all prescription drugs. Treating providers would have access to the information to improve medication management.

MNA supports using information technology to improve care management. Much of this data is already available through commercial products. This legislation would make all of the data accessible. Before moving forward, we suggest the following amendments:

- Narrow the entities reporting data to pharmacies. The bill includes pharmacies as well as prescribers who dispense. Prescribers do not have the infrastructure to report the data as envisioned under the bill. For instance, local health departments would have to build systems to report data about dispensing birth control and treatment for sexually transmitted infections;
- Enhance the ability for consumers to control access to their information. We are concerned that some consumers may defer or forgo care because of concerns about confidentiality. We recommend exploring avenues to give consumers more control over when their information is shared; and
- Explicit protection against the database being used for other purposes. While only treating providers are authorized to access the database, we recommend more explicit protections against the database being used for purposes other than care coordination.

Thank you for consideration of our testimony. We look forward to working with the Committee on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.