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**HB 1486**

March 6, 2020

**TO:** Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 1486 – Public Health – Non–Controlled Substance Prescription Record System Program

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill 1486.

Prescription drug monitoring programs can be powerful public health tools. For example, in response to the mounting opioid epidemic states set up prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs), statewide electronic databases to track all controlled substance prescriptions and notify prescribers of individual patient’s dispensed controlled substance medications and dosages.<sup>1</sup> The implementation of PDMPs was associated with changes in prescriber practices, less use of multiple providers by patients, and fewer hospital admissions for substance use treatment.<sup>2</sup>

Similar to PDMPs, HB 1486 proposes creating a prescription drug monitoring program but for non-controlled substances. By allowing clinicians to track what other providers have prescribed through a statewide database, they can adjust their own prescribing practices accordingly to reduce duplicative prescriptions and guard against harmful medication interactions.

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<sup>1</sup> Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs). N.d. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed 4 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pdmp\\_factsheet-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pdmp_factsheet-a.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> What States Need to Know about PDMPs. 3 October 2017. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed 3 March 2020. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdmp/states.html>

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In establishing a centralized database for non-controlled substances prescriptions, this bill could empower providers with the necessary information to improve prescribes practices and ultimately to improve patient safety and decrease health care costs for Maryland residents.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 1486.