



“Advocating for NPs since 1992”

February 24, 2021

Re: **HB 810/SB 0706 Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Laboratory Tests OPPOSED**

On behalf of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc., (NPAM) the only professional association advocating solely for the over 7,100 certified Nurse Practitioners (NPs) licensed in Maryland, and the over 800 active members of NPAM, we are respectfully requesting you **OPPOSE HB 1810/SB 0706 Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Laboratory Tests.**

This bill would alter the definition of “practice pharmacy” to include the ordering and administering of laboratory tests for the purposes of early detection of disease, screening, and health awareness.

We are concerned that when patients are screened for early detection of disease, there is no follow-up with the Primary Care Provider (PCP). Typically, these types of laboratory tests are ordered at regular intervals during regular and routine appointments with the PCP, and are ordered based on the results of a thorough history and physical assessment obtained at each office visit and thoughtful analyses of the patient’s co-morbidities. Following the tests, the PCP reviews and analyzes the laboratory report, and bases suggested treatment on those results, in concert with the wishes of the patient.

Simply obtaining laboratory tests without examining a patient will lead to overutilization of healthcare resources, excess costs to the healthcare system, and, potentially, excess costs to the patient. Further, this practice would fragment the healthcare system. Additionally, interpretation of the laboratory results would be done by the Pharmacist without the knowledge of the patient’s past medical history and co-morbidities.

NPAM is hopeful you will **OPPOSE HB 810/SB 0706 Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Laboratory Tests.** Feel free to contact Beverly Lang, Executive Director, NPAM if you require additional information.

Kindest Regards,
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