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January 22, 2021

To: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Patricia F. O'Connor, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

Re: Senate Bill 298 (State Board of Pharmacy – Pharmacy Closure – Notice to Customers (The Dennis Robin Act): Support

The Office of the Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit (HEAU) supports Senate Bill 298 which would expressly require pharmacies that are planning to close to provide advance notice directly to customers before closing. The Maryland Board of Pharmacy currently has regulations that govern pharmacy closures but the regulations do not require direct advance notice to customers. We believe the bill would improve protections for consumers against abrupt closures without notice, or those occurring with inadequate notice to consumers. The notice is critical for customers needing to find alternate pharmacies to fill prescriptions.

We urge the Committee to give the bill a favorable report.

cc: Sponsor