



A Network Of
Independently Owned
Pharmacies

Testimony offered on behalf of:

EPIC PHARMACIES, INC.

IN SUPPORT OF:

SB 828 – HIV Prescription Drugs – Dispensing by Pharmacists and Insurance Requirements

Hearing 3/2/21 at 1:00PM

EPIC Pharmacies Supports SB 828 – HIV Prescription Drugs – Dispensing by Pharmacists and Insurance Requirements.

EPIC Pharmacies support efforts to reducing barriers for patients to receive both pre and post exposure prophylaxis for HIV infection. The pharmacist is often the most accessible health care provider and patients see their pharmacist an average of twenty-four times a year in a setting that is comfortable for the patient as well as in a setting that is not identified with any particular diagnosis or disease.

The only concerns we have with the bill have to do with nomenclature rather than substance. The bill mentions on numerous occasions that the treatment may be administered “without a prescription.” We would advise that the writers of the bill work in concert with the insurance administration and state attorney general with respect to making sure that this language is permissible. Can the State of Maryland make the schedule of a drug less restrictive than approved by the the Food and Drug Administration? If not, the State of Maryland has utilized other techniques in the past such as utilizing “Standing Orders” with respect to Narcan dispensing. We have no doubt that these concerns will be addressed, clarified, and/ or resolved, and are happy to help in any capacity.

As such, EPIC Pharmacies recommends a favorable report on SB 828.

Thank you,

Stephen Wiener, Pharmacist

Steve Wiener, Rph
EPIC PharmPAC Treasurer

Mt. Vernon Pharmacy and Mt. Vernon Pharmacy at Fallsway