



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
EASTERN SHORE

**SCHOOL of PHARMACY  
and HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

The Honorable Paul Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Support: SB84: Pharmacists – Administering Injectable Medications and Biological Products**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I support SB84 because it will increase patient access to care and pharmacist services. I practice in a Federally Qualified Health Center as a credentialed HIV pharmacist on the Eastern Shore and have also spent over 20 years in community pharmacy. Patients deserve to have access to all their medications at all times. Currently, there is a massive gap in the provision of quality care concerning injectable medications.

I have regularly found patients searching for a provider willing to administer their prescribed medication. Take for instance my patient who was recently released from a drug rehab clinic and was provided an electronic prescription for Vivitrol to my community pharmacy, to help her stay off of opioids. She shows up, but has no provider to administer the medication. The local doctors' offices did not prescribe the medication and will not administer to her and the urgent care clinic will not administer to her. I stand in front of her as she is crying and fearful of a drug relapse, willing and capable of providing the injection, but unable to do anything other than recommend a visit to the Emergency Room.

Pharmacists are accessible to patients, have shown an ability to provide safe injections in the arena of vaccinations, are equipped to provide patient care, and are well placed to make a difference in medication adherence. Administration of long acting psychiatric medications and substance dependence medications are a way for pharmacists to engage in patient care that will increase adherence and relieve the burden from clinic offices. Many new therapies are coming out in the form of long acting injectables, like a new HIV injectable. I would love to be able to assist my patients by administering this long acting injectable to help them stay healthy over the long term.

I support this bill because it frees primary care providers to provide primary care. It frees psychiatry offices to provide psychiatric care. It allows patients to get their medications when they need them, where they are dispensed. It allows pharmacists to work at the top of their licenses in order to free time for physicians to do the things that only they are trained and allowed to do. Please strongly consider supporting this bill.

Also, remember to get your COVID vaccine as soon as you are eligible. Currently approved vaccines are probably the most effective vaccines ever created and will save lives.

Sincerely,

Richard DeBenedetto, PharmD, MS, AAHIVP