



Board of Pharmacy

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

Jennifer L. Hardesty, Board President – Deena Speights-Napata, Executive Director

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chairman
Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 716 – Maryland Health Care Workers Loan Assistance Program – Establishment and Funding

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Support with Amendments for Senate Bill 716 – Maryland Health Care Workers Loan Assistance Program – Establishment and Funding (SB 716).

SB 716 would establish the Maryland Health Care Workers Loan Assistance Program (Program). The Program would provide certain health care workers up to \$10,000 for the purpose of repayment of a health care related education loan. SB 716 defines a “health care worker” as an advanced practice registered nurse, nurse anesthetist, registered nurse practitioner, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, licensed respiratory care practitioner, physician, and physician assistant.

As written, SB 716’s definition of a “health care worker” does not include a pharmacist or pharmacy technician. It is the Board’s desire that the Program extend loan repayment assistance to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The Board believes that loan repayment assistance may help attract and retain pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Loan repayment assistance is one of many factors that may encourage a health care worker to provide services in a particular location. Pharmaceutical services are integral to the care and recovery of many individuals, particularly hospital inpatients; therefore, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians should be included in the definition of a “health care worker.”

AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE:

On page 2, line 26, insert “**LICENSED PHARMACIST, AS DEFINED IN § 12-101 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE**”;

AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO:

On page 2, line 28, insert “**REGISTERED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN, AS DEFINED IN § 12-101 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE**”; and

AMENDMENT NUMBER THREE:

Move the text regarding a physician and physician assistant to Page 3 to maintain alphabetical order.

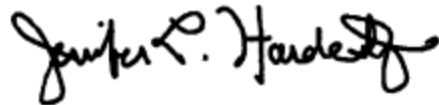
The Board recommends a favorable report on SB 716 with the proposed amendments.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov or (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director



Jennifer L. Hardesty,
PharmD, FASCP
President