



CONSUMER  
HEALTHCARE  
PRODUCTS  
ASSOCIATION

Taking healthcare personally.

January 31, 2021

The Honorable C.T. Wilson  
House Economic Matters Committee, Chair  
231 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support for HB 295 –Online Marketplace Disclosure Requirements (INFORM Consumers Act of 2022)**

Dear Chairman Wilson:

On behalf of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA), the national trade association representing the leading manufacturers of over-the-counter (OTC) medications, dietary supplements, and consumer medical devices, I'd like to express support for HB 295 - legislation requiring online marketplaces to disclose certain information to consumers.

OTC medicines play a critical role in our nation's overall healthcare. Our members' products provide millions of Americans with safe, effective, and affordable therapies to treat and prevent many common ailments and diseases. These medicines are affordable to patients, can be obtained without the intervention of a physician, and help empower families to treat conditions with trusted, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved treatments. We, therefore, take very seriously any threat to the safety of consumers purchasing OTC products in online marketplaces. The sale of stolen and counterfeit consumer healthcare products represents a serious hazard to the health and welfare of Maryland families. HB 295 would alleviate many of these concerns and create a much more confident buying experience for consumers.

When licensed pharmacies and verified vendors sell over-the-counter medications and food products, they are complying with federal and state regulations to ensure that the items are effective and safe to consume. They take care to handle and store them under specified conditions and pull items when they're set to expire. Conversely, when OTC products are stolen and resold, or when counterfeit products are being transacted, these standards and safeguards can no longer be guaranteed. Compromised safety standards can lead to careless management of medicine and invite package tampering or other forms of malpractice which could cause harm to Maryland residents.

As record numbers of consumers turn to online shopping and unregulated third-party sellers operating through online marketplaces as their preferred purchase method of choice, the need to ensure product safety and integrity must also expand. HB 295 establishes baseline requirements for online marketplaces that can better guarantee the safety of consumers using OTC healthcare products.

For these reasons, we strongly support the passage of HB 295 and respectfully request the support of the full House Economic Matters Committee as well. We thank Delegate Qi for filing this critical legislation and encourage you to contact me directly with any questions on our position.

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Respectfully submitted,



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cc: House Economic Matters Committee