



CONSUMER
HEALTHCARE
PRODUCTS
ASSOCIATION

Taking healthcare personally.

February 16, 2022

The Honorable Delegate Kumar Barve
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: H.B. 700 Products and Packaging (Labeling, Marketing, and Advertising for Recycling) -
OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Barve:

On behalf of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA), the national trade association representing the leading manufacturers of over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, dietary supplements, and consumer medical devices, I'd like to express opposition to H.B. 700. The federal government is the primary arbiter of labeling regulations for consumer healthcare products but under this bill manufacturers would be expected to create a Maryland specific label that differs from the rest of the country. While we share a desire to increase recycling and reducing waste in landfills, we cannot support state labeling requirements that are not consistent with the majority of states.

Consumer Healthcare Product Labeling is Regulated by the Federal Government

Labeling of consumer healthcare products differs from other consumer products in that it is often dictated by federal rules and regulations. The federal government has created labeling requirements to ensure consistent labeling conveying usage and safety information for consumers. The label tells you what the medicine is supposed to do, who should or shouldn't take it, and how to use it. Labeling requirements for consumer healthcare products are very detailed under FDA rules.

Inconsistent Labeling Across States is Causes Confusion

The labeling requirements for package recyclability proposed in H.B. 700 differ from the vast majority of states that have utilized a specific plastics recyclability standard dating back to 1988. Last year California adopted S.B. 343 which prohibits the use of recycling symbols in labeling if the state does not deem the materials recyclable. Yet, H.B. 700 differs from the new California law, further illustrating the inconsistency among state labeling laws that manufacturers of consumer healthcare products fear.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. We respectfully request you give careful consideration to our concerns. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carlos I. Gutiérrez'.

Carlos I. Gutiérrez
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Cc: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee