

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Joanne C. Benson

FROM: J. Steven Wise
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Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: March 2, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 661 – *Reimbursement of Pharmacist for Services Rendered*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendment** Senate Bill 661.

Senate Bill 661 makes various changes affecting the reimbursement of pharmacists. MedChi does not take issue with the payment parity provisions of the legislation but believes that some aspects of the bill need to be clarified so that Senate Bill 661 does not become a scope of practice bill.

First, on page 3 at line 27, the bill states that coverage shall be provided “if the services are...(1) within the scope of practice of the licensed pharmacist.” We believe that for purposes of clarity the following should be added after pharmacist: “...as provided by Title 12 of the Health Occupations Article”.

Second, starting at the bottom of page 2 and continuing onto page 3, the bill amends the Health-General Article regarding human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing and other aspects of the statute. It is our understanding that the bill is not intended to permit pharmacists to conduct HIV testing, however that intent is not clear in our read of the legislation. With a better understanding of what aspects of this statute are sought to be changed, we believe amendments can be agreed upon.

For these reasons, MedChi supports with amendments Senate Bill 661.

For more information call:

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