



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

### MARYLAND BOARD OF PHARMACY

Jennifer L. Hardesty, PharmD, FASCP, Board President — Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

#### **RE: Senate Bill 678 – Health Insurance – Reimbursement for Services Rendered by a Pharmacist**

Dear Chairwoman Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (Board) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 678 – Health Insurance – Reimbursement for Services Rendered by a Pharmacist.

SB 678 would provide coverage for services rendered by a licensed pharmacist who is acting within their lawful scope of practice to the same extent as services rendered by any other licensed health care provider, without regard to the pharmacist's employment arrangement or derivative authority granted by possession of a physician's order. §§ 15-151, 15-716.

Currently a Maryland-licensed pharmacist is only guaranteed reimbursement for (1) patient assessment and administering a self-administered medication, (2) patient assessment and administering a maintenance injectable medication, (3) patient assessment and administering an injectable medication for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections, (4) or patient assessment and ultimately prescribing a contraceptive. §§ 15-148(c), 15-716(a).

While the Board focuses its efforts on licensure, discipline, inspections, and compliance, it can not escape the business component of the practice of pharmacy. Reimbursement for services rendered will encourage pharmacy operators and pharmacists to provide and enhance services that promote public health. Additionally, reimbursement for services provided may encourage pharmacists to continue in the profession for an additional number of years or entice new applicants to pursue a career in pharmacy. Maintaining an adequate number of licensed pharmacists in Maryland is imperative to the provision of health care services in hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient clinics, and local health departments.

The Board respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 678.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director at [deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov](mailto:deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov) or (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deena", written in a cursive style.

Deena Speights-Napata, MA  
Executive Director