



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 517

Take It Back Maryland Act

Before the House Health and Government Operations Committee

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Madam Chair and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of House Bill 517, the Take It Back Maryland Act**. HB 517, with sponsor revisions, would strengthen Maryland's existing infrastructure by establishing a robust public outreach initiative and examining ways in which the drug take-back program can be improved.

We thank Delegate Solomon for sponsoring this important legislation, as it would be a positive step for public health for several reasons. Drug take-back programs offer important protections, both by reducing potential pollutants released into the environment from improper disposal, and by limiting access that may result in accidental ingestion or abuse. Studies have shown that unused or expired medications are a leading cause of pediatric poisonings—proper disposal is critical to preventing these accidents.

Additionally, we would encourage the proposed workgroup to study the potential of this program to improve prescription affordability through the use of pharmacy repositories.

HB 517 is a commonsense way to keep our communities safer. We urge a favorable report of this legislation and thank the Committee for its ongoing commitment to improving public health for all Marylanders.