



Date: March 6, 2023

To: The Honorable Jocelyn Pena-Melnyk, Chair

From: Aliyah N. Horton, CAE, Executive Director, MPhA, 240-688-7808

Cc: Members, House Government Operations Committee

Re: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT HB 570 – PUBLIC HEALTH – PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS – DEACTIVATION SYSTEMS

The Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA) urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for **HB 570 – Public Health- Prescription Opioids -Deactivation Systems.**

MPhA has strong policy and precedent on:

- encouraging pharmacists and pharmacies to provide medication disposal options and support medication disposal events;
- encouraging pharmacists and pharmacies to utilize all available resources to implement and expand education and disposal programs within pharmacies; and
- supporting access to all appropriate medication disposal efforts and education programs in order to reduce medication misuse.

However, we had significant concerns with Page 2 lines 7 -9, in the bill that states “an opioid prescription may not be dispensed in the state unless the dispenser provides a personal use pharmaceutical disposal system to the ultimate user at no cost.”

While MPhA is supportive of the general intent of the bill, the referenced language sets an unfunded mandate on pharmacies to provide the disposal systems and an expectation of inventory delivery and space needs that cannot not be reasonably accommodated.

In conversations, with the bill sponsor, Delegate Bagnall, we have seen significant amendments to address the language of concern.

We will continue to work with the Delegate to find opportunities where the pharmacy community can support the use of the Opioid Use Restitution Fund to aid in the safe disposal of opioids in Maryland.

As such, MPhA urges a **FAVORABLE REPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** to remove the unfunded mandate and clarify the process for how dispensers may receive disposal and/or deactivation systems.