



## Maryland Community Health System

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 650 - Health Insurance – Reimbursement and Use of Specific Pharmacies and Dispensaries – Prohibitions

**Hearing Date:** March 2, 2023

**Position:** Support

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Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) is in support of *House Bill 650 - Health Insurance – Reimbursement and Use of Specific Pharmacies and Dispensaries – Prohibitions*. This bill specifies that insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations that provide coverage for prescription drugs may not prohibit a subscriber, member, or beneficiary from choosing a pharmacy or dispensary to obtain a covered specialty drug if the pharmacy or dispensary meets specified requirements. The bill also states that a pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) that provides pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of a carrier may no longer require a beneficiary to use a specific pharmacy or entity for a specialty drug.

MCHS is a network of federally qualified health centers focused on providing somatic, behavioral, and dental health services to underserved communities. Access to quality healthcare is essential, and this bill would encourage pharmacy choice which is an important factor in ensuring that customers receive the best possible care. Pharmacy choice allows customers to select the pharmacy that best meets their needs and provides them with the most convenience. This bill removes the artificial barriers established by insurance carriers and PBMs and instead promotes patient choice when choosing a pharmacy which is an important factor in providing quality healthcare.

We ask for the Committee's full support of this legislation. We are committed to working with the Committee and other stakeholders as you review this bill. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at [mpaddy@policypartners.net](mailto:mpaddy@policypartners.net).