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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SB 678

Health Insurance – Reimbursement for Services Rendered by a Pharmacist

Good Afternoon Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Moon, and Members of Health & Government Operations Committee;

I appreciate the opportunity today to present to you SB 678, Health Insurance Reimbursement for Services Rendered by a Pharmacist. SB678 passed the Senate by a vote of 47 to 0. It is the product of a Maryland Insurance Administration Working Group from the summer and its report to the General Assembly. It requires the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, the Maryland Children's Health Program, and others to provide coverage for all services rendered by a licensed pharmacist within the pharmacist's scope of practice – to the same extent as services rendered by any other healthcare practitioner.

Pharmacist patient-care services demonstrate improved patient outcomes and reduced overall health care costs. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, there are 47 areas in Maryland that are designated as health professional shortage areas. This includes 19 out of Maryland's 23 Counties and the City of Baltimore. Pharmacists are one of the most accessible health care providers for Maryland patients, with most Maryland residents living within five miles of a pharmacy. Pharmacists are well positioned to fill patient care gaps providing services and access.

SB 678 is the cross-file of HB 1151, that was considered by this Committee and passed by a vote of 131 to 0, they are in the same posture.

I respectfully request a favorable SB678.