



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 7, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 570 – Public Health – Prescription Opioids – Deactivation Systems

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (Board) respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for House Bill (HB) 570 – Public Health – Prescription Opioids – Deactivation Systems.

HB 570 would require a pharmacist to provide a personal use pharmaceutical disposal system (system) with each opioid prescription they dispense at no cost to the patient. § 24-2202. HB 570 indicates the Department of Health (Department) may obtain systems through manufacturer donation or with funding from the Opioid Restitution Fund, and then provide those systems to each pharmacy in Maryland. § 24-2203.

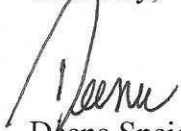
HB 570 does not guarantee that the Department will procure systems or provide them to each pharmacy in Maryland. The Board recommends that HB 570 be amended to include a mandate directing the Department to acquire and provide systems to Maryland pharmacies. Alternatively, should pharmacies absorb the expense of providing systems to patients at no cost, HB 570 should be amended to include language guaranteeing payor reimbursement.

The Board recommends that HB 570 be amended to encourage a pharmacist to offer or recommend a system, rather than mandate distribution with each opioid prescription dispensed. Mandatory distribution without regard to the number of pills dispensed, refills authorized, or criteria indicating whether a patient is likely to stop medication therapy may lead to wasted systems and unnecessary expenditures.

The Board recommends that HB 570 be amended to exempt opioid prescriptions dispensed into institutional settings, as these settings are staffed with healthcare providers responsible for medication management and disposal.

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 or (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deena", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director