

February 24, 2023

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

FAVORABLE SUPPORT: HB693/SB647 State Board of Pharmacy - Board Membership and Delegated Pharmacy Acts

Greetings Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

It is my distinct pleasure to be here with you all today. My name is Nephthalee Edmond Tefera, and I currently serve & lead as the Pharmacy Operations Supervisor at MedStar Montgomery Medical Center in Olney, MD, as well as one of the Board Directors of the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy.

Undeniably, pharmacy plays a vital role in the healthcare industry; however, there's limited advancement for the profession without acknowledging the impact of pharmacy technicians. The significant contribution of pharmacy technicians was seen and most felt during the pandemic's peak. Pharmacy technicians worked tirelessly to ensure medications were safely prepared and delivered to patients on time. They also played an instrumental role in administering immunizations, medication history collection, and navigating the medication shortages plaguing the country. The increased presence of pharmacy technicians in the medication dispensing process has facilitated pharmacists to practice at the top of their licenses and provide more direct patient care. As the roles and responsibilities of pharmacy technicians continue to expand, having technician representation on the Maryland Board of Pharmacy becomes paramount. The Maryland State Board of Pharmacy currently includes ten licensed pharmacists and two consumer members but does not include pharmacy technicians. According to recent Department of Labor data, state pharmacy boards regulate nearly 430,000 US pharmacy technicians¹. Such a large workforce should warrant representation. In addition, many important issues regarding expectations, required education, and defining the technician's scope of practice will need to be considered. Having a registered technician in the room and on the board to discuss such matters is essential in championing and advancing the technician's role as a significant contributor to the healthcare team.

A registered pharmacy technician is uniquely positioned to identify and engage as a Maryland Board of Pharmacy member to promote the health and well-being of Maryland constituents.

MSHP respectfully requests the Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 693.

Thank you again for your support of HB 693. We look forward to working with you on its enactment into law.

Sincerely,

Nephthalee Edmond Tefera, PharmD, BCPS

References:

1. BLS.gov. Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics.
<https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes292052.htm>