



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

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TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Steve Johnson

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
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RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 650 – *Health Insurance – Reimbursement and Use of Specific Pharmacies and Dispensaries – Prohibitions*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC), we **support** House Bill 650. House Bill 650, among other provisions, allows a patient to obtain medications, including specialty drugs, from the pharmacy or dispensary of his/her choice (provided that the pharmacy or dispensary agrees to the term and conditions in the contract) and prohibits a patient from having to use a mail order pharmacy.

For patients with chronic and/or life-threatening conditions, timely access to treatment is critical to avoid medical complications. Patients who are required by a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) to use specialty or mail-order pharmacies often report delays in prescription delivery which, in turn, results in treatment delays. Through years of training and experience in their chosen specialty, physicians are well-informed on the medications that they prescribe to their patients and can advise their patients accordingly. Given that House Bill 650 would require a pharmacy or dispensary that wished to be used by a patient to meet the terms and conditions (including costs) of that PBM, this is simply about patient choice and access.

MedChi and MACHC urge a favorable vote on House Bill 650 to provide patients with the flexibility to obtain their medications at the venue that they believe will provide them with better care and quality outcomes, which will ultimately benefit the health care system at-large.