



## 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 23, 2023

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

#### **RE: Senate Bill 678 – Health Insurance – Reimbursement for Services Rendered by a Pharmacist**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (Board) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 678 – Health Insurance – Reimbursement for Services Rendered by a Pharmacist as amended.

SB 678 would provide coverage for services rendered by a licensed pharmacist who is acting within their lawful scope of practice to the same extent as services rendered by any other licensed health care provider, without regard to the pharmacist's employment arrangement or derivative authority granted by possession of a physician's order. §§ 15-151, 15-716.

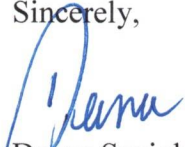
Currently a Maryland-licensed pharmacist is only guaranteed reimbursement for (1) patient assessment and administering a self-administered medication, (2) patient assessment and administering a maintenance injectable medication, (3) patient assessment and administering an injectable medication for the treatment of a sexually transmitted infection, (4) or patient assessment and prescribing of a contraceptive. §§ 15-148(c), 15-716(a).

While the Board focuses its efforts on compliance, inspections, and licensure to protect public health and safety, it is aware that successful and sustainable businesses are positioned to meet statutory and regulatory requirements, and absorb additional demands. Reimbursement for services rendered will encourage pharmacy operators and pharmacists to provide and enhance services that promote public health. Additionally, reimbursement for services provided may encourage pharmacists to continue in the profession or attract students to the profession. Maintaining an adequate number of Maryland-licensed pharmacists is imperative to the provision of health care services in hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient clinics, and local health departments.

The Board respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 678.

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](mailto:deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov) or (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata, MA  
Executive Director