



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

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
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DATE: March 2, 2023

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 517 – *Drug Manufacturers – Drug Take-Back Programs (Take It Back Maryland Act)*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) writes in **opposition** of *House Bill 517: Drug Manufacturers – Drug Take-Back Programs (Take It Back Maryland Act)*. We are a community of over 700 Maryland member companies that span the full range of the technology sector. Our vision is to propel Maryland to become the number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology in the nation. We bring our members together and build Maryland’s innovation economy through advocacy, networking, and education.

The MTC has numerous member companies in the life sciences and biotechnology sectors which manufacture products that are potentially subject to the requirements of this bill. Our concerns with the bill as drafted are two-fold: 1) it is not clear there is a demonstrated need for this bill and 2) the requirements for the industry to pay for the programs that arise from this legislation are vague.

First, it is not clear the bill is needed, given the plethora of options available for safe and convenient drug disposal currently available throughout the State. A resident in need of a safe disposal method for unneeded drugs will find many resources and options through a simple Google search. One such option www.myoldmeds.com contains a directory of locations throughout Maryland where one can dispose of unneeded medication.¹ Additionally, many public agencies already prioritize making this information available; there is publicly available medication disposal information from the federal Drug Enforcement Agency, all 24 Maryland jurisdictions, nearly every police department in the State, hospitals, several non-profit organizations, the Maryland Department of Health, the Department of the Environment, and the Maryland State Police. Given these resources, our members are concerned that a process to develop an additional system of disposal may be unnecessarily redundant.

¹ MyOldMeds.com-Maryland-Directory-12.22.pdf

Second, the bill is vague with respect to which manufacturers are responsible for paying and how much. For example, the bill does not distinguish among products that may be more harmful to public health or the environment than others. This leaves open the possibility that a manufacturer of a drug that poses a minimal risk is potentially responsible for as much cost burden as manufacturers of drugs that do pose some risk. Therefore, the bill lacks specifics on how industry contributions would be assessed in a comprehensive and fair manner. Additionally, the bill is not clear on what, specifically, the industry is funding. The lack of certainty on what is being funded makes it impossible to predict how much companies are being asked to contribute via passage of this law.

The MTC and our member companies wholeheartedly support the safe and responsible use and disposal of all medications used by residents; we are supportive of the multitude of methods and resources available to do just that. We would be pleased to participate in any ongoing discussions on how to build upon these efforts and ensure that Maryland consumers are properly educated. However, we do not believe this bill, as drafted, provides the most practical and workable path forward on this issue.

We respectfully request for an unfavorable report.