



Maryland
Hospital Association

February 28, 2023

To: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee

Re: Letter of Support- House Bill 517- Drug Manufacturers – Drug Take-Back Programs (Take It Back Maryland Act)

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 517.

We support the sponsor's amendments to HB 517, which would replace the current bill language creating a drug take back program with an education campaign on existing Maryland drug take-back programs. Specifically, these amendments:

- Create a one-year education campaign to instruct Marylanders on existing drug take-back programs and locations
- Develop a work group, chaired by the Maryland Department of Health and Maryland Department of Environment, to study existing drug take back infrastructure
- Create a fund for ongoing education efforts following the aforementioned education campaign

Each year, 16 million Americans 12 years and older abuse prescriptions, resulting in more than 2 million addicted prescription drug abusers.¹ Some common prescription types are painkillers, opioids, sedatives, stimulants, and benzodiazepine, and four out of every five pharmacy-filled prescriptions are opioids. Prescription drug abuse often leads to overdose, which requires admission to hospital emergency departments or other lifesaving medical treatment. Taking back prescription drugs is a significant step to limit drug abuse and improve public health outcomes.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the Committee adopt the bill sponsor's amendments and urge a *favorable* report for HB 517.

For more information, please contact:
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¹ Prescription Drug Abuse Statistics, National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics, drugabusestatistics.org/prescription-drug-abuse-statistics/