



Memorandum In Support of SB 786

Senator McKay

Senate Finance Committee

March 13, 2024

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is the nonprofit nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. ACS CAN empowers cancer patients, survivors, their families and other experts on the disease, amplifying their voices and public policy matters that are relevant to the cancer community at all levels of government. We support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. On behalf of our constituents, many of whom have been personally affected by cancer, we stand in strong support of SB 786.

SB 786 would establish a “Task Force on Access to Pharmacy Services and the Impact of Telepharmacy in Maryland” to analyze access to pharmacy services and identify barriers to pharmacy services and telepharmacy. It would also require the Task Force to submit an interim report, and final report by December 1, 2025 reporting out its findings and recommendations on methods to increase access to pharmacy services and the use of telepharmacy in the State to the Governor and the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee of the General Assembly.

Cancer patients and survivors often face significant obstacles to accessing necessary treatment including prescription medications, particularly for patients who live in rural areas. Access to essential medications should be made as frictionless as possible, so that patients can focus on healing, not stressing about transportation needs and distance to pharmacies.

It is especially concerning given the recent revelation that Maryland is losing pharmacies within the State, creating pharmacy deserts particularly in rural areas. SB 786 is an important first step towards identifying the gaps and opportunities to make better access to prescription medications a reality for patients across our state.

ACS CAN thanks the Chair and committee for the opportunity to testify and urges a favorable report of SB 786.