



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 26, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle Chair,
Senate Finance Committee 3 East,
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 1230 – Public Health - Tianeptine Consumer Protection Act – Letter of Support as Amended

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for House Bill (HB) 1230 – Public Health - Tianeptine Consumer Protection Act. This bill will prohibit retailers from advertising, preparing, distributing, selling, or exposing for sale tianeptine products, and imposes a fine and potential imprisonment for violation of this section.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates food, drugs, and dietary supplements at the Federal Level. The FDA has not approved any prescription or over-the-counter drug products containing tianeptine. There are no drug products containing tianeptine that are legally on the market in the U.S., and the FDA has warned against the use of unapproved tianeptine products for medical treatment. In addition, the FDA has determined tianeptine is not appropriate for use as a dietary ingredient in dietary supplements, as there is insufficient evidence that it can be considered safe. Finally, for that same reason, the FDA has advised that tianeptine may not be used as a food ingredient.

The Department has the utmost interest in making sure Marylanders are not exposed (intentionally or otherwise) to potentially dangerous foods, dietary supplements, and unapproved medications. With the adopted amendments, the Department strongly supports this legislation as a way to protect Marylanders and Maryland's youth from unsafe products in the State. The Department thanks the sponsor for bringing this bill forward and for the adoption of the amendments.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary