

**Joseph Ekwutife, RPh
2504 Highcrest Court
Manchester, MD 21102**

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building
Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: FAV HB0057 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program - Dispensers

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk,

I am writing on behalf of myself as a pharmacist practicing in the state of Maryland in support of HB0057 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) - Dispensers - Veterinarians to require veterinarians who dispense controlled substances from their office or clinic to report these prescriptions to the PDMP.

The PDMP is meant to be a complete database of all controlled substance (CS) prescription medications dispensed to residents of Maryland. Health care providers need to have as much information as possible about the CS medications that a patient may have in their home. It is important to have as complete a picture as possible of CS that patients may have in their homes when assessing the patient's risk of overdose or other detrimental outcomes.

Please accept this letter of support and I respectfully request this committee to approve HB0057.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Ekwutife', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph Ekwutife, RPh

