



**Date:** February 11, 2025

**To:** The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

**From:** Aliyah N. Horton, FASAE, CAE, Executive Director, 240-688-7808

**Cc:** Members, Senate Finance Committee

**Re:** **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT – SB458 – Health Occupations – Structural Racism Training**

The Maryland Pharmacists Association supports with amendment **SB 458 – Health Occupations – Structural Racism Training**. We are specifically requesting the following amendment to Section 20-1306(a)(2).

Amendment 20-1306(a)(2)

- (2) The Program may approve only implicit bias of this subsection that are recognized by a health occupations board established under the Health Occupations Article, ~~or~~ accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, **OR THE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION.**

**Rationale:**

Streamline the process and access for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians

- ACPE accreditation for the pharmacy profession is the same as ACCME is for other medical professionals:
  - both provide national accreditation standards for evidence-based continuing education
  - require documented learning objectives
  - maintain quality assurance for professional education; and
  - offer credit recognition across multiple states.
- ACCME accredited training is not automatically approved by pharmacy boards.
  - Pharmacists/pharmacy technicians must undertake an individual approval process with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and/or their state Board for the credits to be approved and recognized for license renewal. If the training is not specifically pharmacy-related it will not be approved.
  - MD Health Occupations Code § 12-309 Continuing Education reads: (l) Any continuing education program that is currently approved by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education automatically qualifies for continuing education credit.
  - If the implicit bias and structural racism training is required for the license renewal, we should support the ability to apply it to the continuing education requirements.
- Adding ACPE to the bill will allow pharmacy education providers to submit ACPE-approved training directly to the Office of Minority Health for approval and the ability to quickly address any issues.
- MPhA experience:
  - The Board of Pharmacy has approved/recognized two ACPE-accredited trainings specifically developed to address the implicit bias training based on the statute. The review process for one took six months and the other six weeks.
  - After completing the process with the Board of Pharmacy, the Office of Minority Health then requested additional information that is not in statute or posted on the website, further delaying the ability of licensed pharmacy professionals to meet the criteria.



- Had we had the ability to directly submit to OMH, we could have quickly addressed the questions and had the training in the community without months of delay.

MPhA strongly supports the intent of the legislation. The amendment will ensure that we and other pharmacy educators can effectively support its implementation with training that is specifically relevant to the pharmacist's role in public health.

**MARYLAND PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION** - Founded in 1882, MPhA is the only state-wide professional society representing all practicing pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and student pharmacists in Maryland. Our mission is to strengthen the profession of pharmacy, advocate for all Maryland pharmacists and promote excellence in pharmacy practice.