

SB 506/HB 1150: Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Minor Conditions and HIV Prevention and Treatment: Please vote **TO OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Finance and Health Committees:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose SB 506 /HB 1150**, concerning *Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Minor Conditions and HIV Prevention and Treatment*.

While pharmacists play a valuable and respected role in our healthcare system, this bill would require them to take on responsibilities that are traditionally—and appropriately—within the scope of a licensed physician. **Pharmacists do not receive the same level of diagnostic training, clinical residency experience, or comprehensive medical education as physicians**, yet this legislation expands their authority in ways that effectively place them in a diagnostic and treatment role.

Physicians complete years of medical school, clinical rotations, and supervised residency training specifically focused on diagnosing complex conditions, recognizing contraindications, managing complications, and coordinating long-term patient care. **Pharmacists**, though highly trained in medication management, **are not trained to conduct full medical evaluations or manage broader underlying health conditions** that may present with similar symptoms.

Allowing pharmacists to independently assess and treat so-called “minor conditions” or manage aspects of HIV prevention and treatment risks **fragmenting patient care**, missing underlying diagnoses, and **weakening continuity between patients and their primary care providers**. **Healthcare decisions should be based on a complete medical history and physical evaluation, not limited interactions in a retail setting.**

This bill may also blur professional boundaries and create liability and oversight concerns, placing pharmacists in difficult clinical situations for which their training was not designed. Expanding scope of practice in this manner should not substitute for increasing access to physicians or strengthening primary care infrastructure.

Maryland should prioritize **safe, coordinated, physician-led care**, ensuring that patients receive comprehensive evaluation and continuity of treatment—not a piecemeal expansion of duties that alters long-established standards of medical practice.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose SB 506 /HB 1150**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,
Trudy Tibbals