

HB1377 Kaiser Testimony - Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Kaiser

Position: FAV

ANNE R. KAISER
Legislative District 14
Montgomery County

Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee

Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 121
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3036
800-492-7122 Ext. 3036
Anne.Kaiser@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Madam Chair Beidle and distinguished members of the Finance Committee, it is my pleasure to come before you and offer testimony in favor of **House Bill 1377: Prescription Drug Repository Program - Redirecting Safe Prescription Drugs Pilot Program**. This bill expands our existing drug repository structure to include medication collected during the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Days.

Every year in the United States, an estimated \$2-5 billion worth of prescription medications go to waste in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and households -- while millions of Americans struggle to afford the medications they need. At the same time, cost-related nonadherence -- which is when patients skip doses, split pills, or fail to fill prescriptions due to cost -- leads to worsening health outcomes, increased hospitalizations, and higher overall health system spending. The high cost of medication not only harms patients, but it also drives avoidable strain on our health care system.

Maryland has taken an important step to address this waste by authorizing licensed repositories to accept, store, and dispense donated medications that meet strict safety criteria. These existing programs already ensure that only unopened, unexpired, and properly handled medications are eligible for redistribution, with patient safety as the top priority.

However, a gap remains. Medications collected during the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, administered by DEA, are currently destroyed, even when they are unopened, safe, and otherwise eligible for redistribution under Maryland law. Since the program's inception, more than 8,650 tons of medications have been collected and incinerated nationwide. While Take Back Day plays a critical role in preventing diversion and misuse, it does not distinguish between medications that must be destroyed and those that could safely help a patient in need.

HB1377 seeks to address that gap by establishing the Redirecting Safe Prescription Drugs Pilot Program to allow eligible medications collected at selected Take Back sites to be identified and redirected to Maryland's existing licensed repositories. Rather than creating a new system, the pilot builds on Maryland's established drug repository infrastructure and maintains all current safety, storage, and dispensing requirements, ensuring that patient protection remains paramount.

This bill is a practical, commonsense step toward reducing waste, strengthening medication access, and ensuring that safe, usable prescriptions reach patients instead of being unnecessarily destroyed.

This bill passed the House with a vote of 132-0. I urge a favorable report on **House Bill 1377**.

Witness Testimony for the Maryland Senate Finance

Uploaded by: Matthew Hollister

Position: FAV

Witness Testimony for the Maryland Senate Finance Committee (HB1377)

Witness Name: Matthew Hollister (James Hollister Wellness Foundation)

Witness Address: 4804 Topping Road, Rockville, MD 20852

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Matthew Hollister, and I am the co-founder and chairman of the James Hollister Wellness Foundation, based in Rockville. Our mission is to save viable, unopened medications from being needlessly destroyed and redirect them for charitable use both here in the United States and abroad. Through this work, we have seen firsthand the enormous volume of safe, sealed medications that go to waste every day—and we have successfully donated some of these medications into Maryland’s existing Prescription Drug Repository Program.

HB1377 is important because it addresses two problems Maryland faces simultaneously: the high cost of prescription medication for underinsured residents, and the millions of dollars’ worth of safe, sealed, and non-expired medications that are destroyed each year during National Drug Take Back Day. This pilot gives Maryland a responsible, evidence-based way to redirect qualifying medications collected during Drug Take Back Day to the people who need them most through the Drug Repository Program.

The logistics of the pilot are straightforward. SIRUM, the nation’s largest medication-donation platform, would serve as the pilot’s donation intake system. They provide the online donor portal, shipping labels, and logistics coordination, and they perform the first level of eligibility screening to ensure only sealed, unexpired, non-controlled medications collected from National Drug Take Back Day sites move forward into the repository system. Then Good Pill, their nonprofit pharmacy partner, would serve as the dispensing pharmacy. Good Pill would complete the pharmacist verification, ensure safety and compliance, and dispense medications directly to Maryland patients at ultra-low cost through home delivery.

Financially, this pilot is one of the most cost-effective health access programs the state could implement. The intake and dispensing infrastructure already exists. The medications themselves are donated. And the cost of medicine for patients is significantly reduced. For the state, the primary expenses are outreach, coordination, and evaluation, while the return is substantial: reduced waste, lower environmental impact, and expanded access to life-saving medications for residents who otherwise cannot afford them.

HB1377 is a fiscally responsible and compassionate solution to help maximize the output of Maryland’s Drug Repository Program. I respectfully urge a favorable report.

HB 1377_ Prescription Drug Repository Program - R

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: UNF

HB 1377: Prescription Drug Repository Program - Redirecting Safe Prescription Drugs Pilot Program: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Finance Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE HB 1377**.

HB 1377 would expand and redirect Maryland's Prescription Drug Repository Program into a pilot for broader "safe prescription drug redirection", allowing more facilities to collect, store, and redistribute donated prescription medications—including potentially controlled substances—under new state guidelines.

While the intent to reduce waste and help low-income or uninsured patients access needed medications is understandable, this bill is premature, poorly designed, and poses unacceptable risks to public health and patient safety. Expanding redistribution of donated drugs—especially beyond the tightly controlled current program—**increases the danger of:**

- Contaminated, expired, or improperly stored medications being dispensed.
- Liability issues for pharmacies, hospitals, and long-term care facilities participating in the pilot.
- Inconsistent quality control and tracking across different entities.

The existing Prescription Drug Repository Program already operates under strict federal and state requirements (FDA guidelines, tamper-evident packaging, no controlled substances in most cases, and pharmacist verification). **Broadening it through a loosely defined "pilot" without robust safeguards, independent oversight, or proven evidence of safety and efficacy will undermine trust in the medication supply chain and could lead to harm rather than help.**

Maryland should focus on strengthening existing safe donation programs, improving access through legitimate channels (e.g., manufacturer assistance programs and Medicaid expansion), and cracking down on drug diversion—not experimenting with expanded redistribution of uncertain-origin prescriptions.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against HB 1377**.

Thank you for your attention to this important public health and patient safety matter.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals

