



TESTIMONY FOR HB1045 – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – Data Disclosure to Federal Law Enforcement – Limitation – FAVORABLE

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Cullison

Committee: Health

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Jessica Gorski, Executive Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Gorski, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1045 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations representing more than 30,000 Marylanders across every legislative district. Our work is rooted in the belief that government should protect people's lives, health, and dignity, especially in moments of crisis.

HB1045 does exactly that.

This bill strengthens privacy protections within Maryland's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) by limiting when prescription monitoring data may be disclosed to federal law enforcement. Under HB1045, disclosure is prohibited when the Protected Health Care Commission determines that the information involves sensitive health services that the Secretary of Health has designated as legally protected. This ensures that Marylanders' most personal medical information is not shared inappropriately or used in ways that undermine access to essential healthcare.

These protections are not theoretical. They are urgently needed.

Across the country, patients have faced increasing threats to the confidentiality of their health information, particularly in areas involving reproductive health, gender-affirming care, mental health treatment, and substance-use disorder services. Without clear statutory limits:

- Federal agencies could access sensitive medical data for purposes unrelated to patient care
- Patients may delay or avoid treatment out of fear that their information could be used against them
- Providers may face uncertainty about what they can safely document or prescribe
- Public health systems may lose trust, especially among marginalized communities
- external enforcement actions could undermine Maryland's own protections for legally safeguarded healthcare

HB1045 provides clarity, consistency, and strong guardrails. It ensures that Maryland—not federal agencies—determines how sensitive health information is protected within our borders. It reinforces the PDMP’s purpose as a clinical and public health tool, not as a mechanism for federal surveillance.

This legislation aligns squarely with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. It strengthens healthcare access, protects civil liberties, advances public safety, and affirms Maryland’s commitment to safeguarding the privacy and dignity of every resident.

No one should be forced to choose between getting medical care and protecting their personal information. HB1045 ensures that doesn’t happen.

Thank you for your time and consideration. **We respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report on HB1045.**