



House Health Committee
March 12, 2026

House Bill 1134 – *Pharmaceutical Drugs and Devices – Gifts to Healthcare Professionals – Prohibition*

POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC), with over 800 members, is the State's largest association of technology companies. Our vision is to propel Maryland to be the country's number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology. MTC brings the State's life sciences and technology communities into a single, united organization that empowers members to achieve their goals through advocacy, networking, and education. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **opposition** to House Bill 1134.

This bill would limit gifts that pharmaceutical and medical device companies can give to doctors and other health care professionals in Maryland. MTC supports transparency and understands the bill's goals of avoiding undue influence on doctors' prescribing decisions. However, we are concerned that this bill would be unnecessarily duplicative of existing regulatory restrictions and may not effectively achieve its intended goals.

First, gifts to health care professionals are already subject to comprehensive federal oversight through the Physician Payments Sunshine Act, which was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act. Under the federal Sunshine Act, drug manufacturers and medical device manufacturers are required to publicly report nearly all transfers of value made to physicians and teaching hospitals. Transparency is provided through public posting of this information by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services through the Open Payments program. Adding a second, and duplicative requirement creates additional burdens for life sciences and biotechnology companies operating in Maryland. An overly burdensome regulatory environment is a factor that companies in these industries consider as they make location, expansion, and other investment decisions. The MTC has consistently raised the alarm on proposals that create unnecessary burdens for this critical industry, and we believe that this bill will create a negative perception among these companies that Maryland is not welcome to growth in this industry. Without an identified oversight gap, we do not feel this proposal is compelling enough when balanced against potential negative perceptions.

Second, MTC believes that modest interactions between life sciences companies and physicians are important to preserve. Life sciences companies rely on feedback from physicians and other health care professionals to improve products, refine clinical applications, and ensure patient safety. Imposing a strict cap, as proposed by this bill, could unintentionally hinder exchanges that benefit patients.

Maryland's ecosystem of life sciences and biotechnology companies is an economic strength that policymakers should work to grow. Enacting additional regulations and compliance hurdles, especially when they duplicate existing federal requirements, may send the wrong message and discourage additional investment and innovation without producing significant improvements for patients. For these reasons, MTC respectfully requests an **unfavorable** report.

For more information call:

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