

Written testimony to Maryland Senate Health Committee
On bill HB 1134

Submitted by Sharon Batt, PhD
Department of Bioethics,
Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada
March 10, 2026

To the Committee:

I strongly support this important bill.

I conduct research on conflicts of interest; I publish and advocate for stronger policies in Canada to protect the interests of patients. Model bills in other countries and jurisdictions strengthen these efforts.

I recently participated on a Faculty of Medicine committee at my university to finalize the conflict-of-interest standards for our faculty, which will include banning gifts to prescribers; unfortunately, the committee's recommendation to ban samples was overruled. If this bill passes (and even if it doesn't), I plan to forward it to our Dean with a recommendation that they reconsider banning this promotional practice, something the literature supports.

I congratulate and thank delegate Deni Taveras for this effort.

Sharon Batt, PhD.

Author of "Canada's culture of partnerships and our failure to promote transparency in pharmaceutical donations" to be published in *Healthcare Policy*, 2026.