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Committee: Health

Testimony on HB1134 - Pharmaceutical Drugs and Devices – Gifts to Health Care Professionals
–Prohibition

Organization: Individual

Person Submitting: Cynthia Pearson

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: 12 March 2026

Dear Chairwoman Bagnall and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1134. As a resident of University Park in Prince Georges County, I support the proposal to ban gifts over \$50 to physicians and other medical professionals with prescribing privileges. I also support the proposal to ban samples. Both of these practices are designed to influence prescribers' behavior. As a patient, I want my practitioner to recommend the medicine that is best for me, not a medicine that has been promoted by sales reps working on commission. As a former executive of a women's health advocacy non-profit, I know even small gifts that seem inconsequential have been proven to influence doctors' behavior. I also know that providing doctors and clinics with free samples is a Trojan horse. It seems like a win-win. Drug companies get visibility, and patients save money. But in the end, patients lose. Free samples are always the newest, expensive medicines. They're never for less expensive, equally effective options. I hope the committee will consider the evidence as it discusses this bill, and vote in favor of HB1134. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Pearson