

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

Dear Health 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