



## TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 1051

### Public Health – Patient Access to Medication

Before the House Health Committee

By Stephanie Klapper, Deputy Director, Maryland Health Care for All Coalition

March 5, 2026

Chair Bagnall, Vice-Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of House Bill 1051** on behalf of our individual organization, Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, Inc. Our mission is quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders. We would like to thank Delegate Rosenberg for introducing this legislation, as it offers an opportunity to improve patient access to medications and modernize pharmacy care in our state.

Medication non-adherence is a major driver of hospital readmissions, accounting for over a third of all cases and resulting in \$100 billion in additional health care spending each year.<sup>i</sup> Primary non-adherence, which is when a patient fails to fill a prescription when it is first prescribed can pose unique concerns, particularly in instances of discharge from hospitals or other care facilities when timely initiation of medications can be critical to health outcomes. Our research with consumer focus groups indicates that ensuring that patients leave the hospital with their prescription medications in hand is popular with Marylanders.<sup>ii</sup> This legislation offers practical solutions, like the establishment of a statewide Meds-to-Beds program, that can help to minimize this issue by removing logistical barriers at the point of discharge. By filling prescriptions prior to release and offering pharmacist counseling, we are likely to see improvements in access and adherence.

Several health care systems in Maryland already utilize bedside delivery of medications successfully, by establishing a formal statewide program and modernizing components of pharmacy care and delivery, we can ensure there is continuity for Maryland patients regardless of where they seek treatment.

We urge a favorable report on HB 1051 and thank the Committee for their commitment to ensuring all Marylanders have access to quality, affordable health care and the medications they need.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5404806/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://healthcareforall.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Opinion-Works-HST-Focus-Groups-Summary-Public-14.pptx>