

House Health Committee
Maryland General Assembly
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support (FAV) for House Bill 1155– Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Rapid Testing and Preventive Care Act

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of CPESN DMV (a Community Pharmacy Enhanced Services Network), a clinically integrated network of community-based pharmacies serving patients across Maryland, I am writing to express strong support for House Bill 1155. This legislation modernizes a pharmacist's scope of practice by authorizing pharmacists, under statewide protocols, to perform CLIA-waived tests, interpret results, and immediately provide treatment for minor conditions and HIV prevention and treatment.

CPESN DMV pharmacies are embedded neighborhood health care destinations that already provide vaccinations, point-of-care testing, chronic disease management, and care coordination for some of Maryland's most vulnerable residents. HB1155 would enable pharmacists to order and use CLIA-waived tests as described in the bill, allowing patients to receive assessment, testing, and treatment in a single visit.

The bill's focus on minor conditions and HIV prevention and treatment is particularly important for Maryland's public health goals. Pharmacist-initiated pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), delivered under Maryland Department of Health statewide protocols, will significantly reduce barriers to timely HIV prevention, especially in communities where primary care and specialty access are limited. Community pharmacists routinely see patients more frequently than other clinicians, positioning them to identify risk, perform appropriate testing, provide counseling, and initiate PrEP or PEP rapidly.

HB1155 is also structured with appropriate safeguards. The bill requires statewide written protocols, limits pharmacist prescribing to non-controlled substances and to

conditions with clearly defined, evidence-based treatment pathways, and relies on CLIA-waived, point-of-care-suitable tests. Pharmacists are already highly trained medication and therapeutics experts, and CPESN DMV pharmacies have additional infrastructure for documentation, care coordination, and communication with prescribers, which supports safe, collaborative care.

Maryland patients have already come to rely on community pharmacists as accessible front-line clinicians during public health emergencies and for routine preventive care. HB1155 builds on that experience by allowing pharmacists to close critical access gaps for common infectious diseases and HIV prevention while maintaining quality and safety through clear protocols and accountability. CPESN DMV stands ready to work with the Maryland Department of Health, the Board of Pharmacy, and other stakeholders to implement this legislation in a way that improves outcomes, reduces costly emergency room visits, and advances health equity across the state.

For these reasons, CPESN DMV respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 1155. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DeAnna Leikach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DeAnna (Dixie) Leikach, RPh, MBA
Managing Network Facilitator, CPESN DMV
Owings Mills, Maryland