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Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Public Testimony Before the Maryland Judiciary Committee in Support of HB 1542

Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and committee members,

My name is Antonya Jeffrey and I'm the Director of Policy Campaigns and Government Affairs at Worth Rises, a national non-profit organization working to end profiteering within the prison industry. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1542, which would require the state to deny or revoke business licenses for any corporations manufacturing, testing, or selling drugs or medical devices for the purpose of capital punishment.

In 2013, Maryland abolished the death penalty, recognizing the deep racial and economic injustice it perpetrates, its discriminatory application, and its failure to deter crime. HB 1542 is a logical and necessary extension of that decision. If Maryland has determined that executions should not occur within the state, it should not allow companies licensed in the state to supply the drugs, devices, technologies, or services used to carry them out elsewhere.

HB 1542 simply provides that businesses operating under Maryland's authority may not knowingly provide goods or services intended for use in executions. This is not a radical step; it is a measured forward-thinking policy that aligns Maryland's commercial practices, with its moral and legal position against capital punishment.

Moreover, HB 1542 reflects a longstanding industry position among pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors. All of the FDA-approved suppliers of drugs sought for use in lethal injection, have publicly opposed the use of their drugs in executions and implemented distribution controls to protect their drugs from being sold for this purpose. Such corporations have brought legal claims against states who sought to purchase their medicines in breach of these controls. The American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Pharmacists Association, and the Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding, among other professional associations, have all also come out against the misuse of healthcare products and medical personnel in executions. And beyond the healthcare industry, major chemical corporations have also banned the use of their nitrogen gas in executions. Allowing their products to be diverted into execution

protocols undermines both medical ethics and public trust and is a loophole in the state's legal framework intended to ban the death penalty.

The execution supply chain increasingly operates through opaque and unregulated channels. When reputable manufacturers refuse to participate, states seeking execution materials often turn to gray or black markets. This creates serious risks related to product safety, regulatory compliance, and accountability. Maryland should not become a jurisdiction that facilitates or legitimizes such activity.

This is not a hypothetical concern for Maryland. With executions surging nationally in recent years, states facing supply shortages are increasingly aggressive in seeking new sources, making Maryland business an active target. Without HB 1542, Maryland has no way to avoid being drawn into an execution supply chain the state has already morally and legally rejected. Similar legislation has been introduced and received strong support in Connecticut, reflecting growing momentum behind this approach.

Passing HB 1542 would protect Maryland's businesses, workers, and reputation from participating in practices the state has already rejected. It would also affirm Maryland's leadership on human rights and ethical governance needed for the next generation of leaders responding to technological and scientific advancements.

Thank you for your consideration,

Antonya Jeffrey
Director of Policy Campaigns and Government Affairs
Worth Rises