

**SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG**  
*Legislative District 41*  
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Chair*

Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

*House Chair*

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Respond to Office Indicated

□ *Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 365  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3297 · 301-858-3297  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3297  
Samuel.Rosenberg@house.state.md.us

□ *District Office*  
4811 Liberty Heights Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21207  
410-664-2646

Testimony of Delegate Samuel I Rosenberg  
Before the Judiciary Committee  
In Support of  
**House Bill 1542**  
**Public Health - Goods, Services, or Technologies**  
**Used in Death Sentences – Prohibition**

Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committee:

In 2013 I was the House floor leader of the legislation that repealed the death penalty in Maryland. Unfortunately, in the time since, not every state in the nation has followed along. In many states that do still administer the death penalty, the drugs and devices that are used are produced elsewhere. House Bill 1542 would make it illegal for Maryland companies to knowingly supply drugs or devices, or any other goods, services, or technologies for the purpose of administering state executions.

More than 70 healthcare companies have opposed the use of their products in executions, including key employers in Maryland such as Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and Airgas. Due to this stark opposition from the healthcare industry, the business of execution largely happens on the black or gray market.

Maryland abolished the death penalty because we recognized it is unjust as it is historically applied and carries a slew of imperfections. Maryland should not participate even indirectly in executions carried out elsewhere, particularly through the misuse of medical products and expertise.

HB 1542 is carefully targeted and applied only when a person doing business in Maryland “knows or reasonably should know” that an order or prescription was prompted either directly or indirectly by someone seeking goods with the intent to carry out a death sentence. This bill does not limit legitimate commerce in Maryland.

A violation would carry a civil penalty and the revocation of a license or permit. Maryland can and should be a leader on this issue and reinforce our values by keeping our healthcare and business communities out of the execution business.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report for House Bill 1542.

March 10, 2026