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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 810
Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Laboratory Tests**

Good afternoon, Chairman Pendergrass, Vice Chairman Peña-Melnyk and honorable members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to present **HB 810 Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Laboratory Tests**. Very simply—this bill would allow pharmacists to order certain laboratory tests at the request of a customer and collect basic, minimally invasive, samples to send to a lab.

We are in challenging and changing times when it comes to health care. Two considerations that we as a policy-making body are that we have made increasing access to health services a priority and we have encouraged individuals to be actively engaged in preventive health care measures.

Under this bill, people would have additional options to make informed choices about their health care. They would have more direct access to lab testing, which often serve as a preventive measure that they could use in conjunction with a physician. There is no intent to limit the role of medical professionals—it is simply a supplement, a tool, in how a person accesses care.

The advocates will explain how the laboratory testing process currently works and how it could work if there were access to these aspects of health care in their neighborhood pharmacy.

I understand how this concept might seem perhaps a little too innovative. I would just ask you to consider the times in which we live, when increased access has become foundational to health care and how this practice could provide greater awareness about health care needs and provide options for individuals to be even more self-determinant in their care.

Thank you for your attention and consideration and I respectfully request a favorable report for HB 810.