



DATE: February 18, 2021

TO: Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

RE: Support for HB 810 - MACDS and NACDS

On behalf of our membership operating approximately 800 pharmacies in Maryland, we jointly write to today to express our support for HB 810, sponsored by Del. Bonnie Cullison. We appreciate the opportunity to submit these written comments to the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

HB 810 would allow pharmacists to partner with clinical laboratories to order and administer laboratory tests that the lab would then process. As you are likely well aware, pharmacists are already authorized to order and perform certain low complexity lab tests and patient screenings in Maryland and have been instrumental in Maryland's COVID testing efforts during the current pandemic.

Nearly all states --including Maryland -- already allow pharmacists to initiate certain therapies. Currently in Maryland pharmacists are already prescribing contraceptives, administering immunizations, and performing and analyzing point of care tests, including those for COVID-19. Given the severity of COVID-19 and the strain it has put on the healthcare system, now is the time to utilize the full skillset of pharmacists to deliver patient care and support the larger healthcare team. There is already significant deployment of broadened pharmacy care throughout the nation and the Commonwealth due to the pandemic. Pharmacists have proven time and time again that they have the knowledge and know-how to bring accessible and convenient healthcare into communities. Because pharmacies serve most neighborhoods with extended evening and weekend hours and without the need for an appointment, pharmacies offer an unparalleled opportunity to truly improve access to care, especially for those without a primary care provider or those living in medically underserved areas.

Despite some of the concerns routinely raised by the medical lobby, pharmacists are both educated and trained in these services having earned a Doctorate of Pharmacy in a six year program that focuses greatly on patient assessments, screenings and direct patient care. Pharmacists also are quite literally the medication experts of the healthcare professions; and have in-depth knowledge of vaccinations; preventing medication side effects and avoiding contraindications; as well as providing emergency care in the rare case of an adverse reaction.

In closing, please consider that pharmacists safely provided more than 3 MILLION vaccines in Maryland over the last 5 years. I think you will agree that this statistic not



only strongly supports the fact that pharmacies provide safe, accessible, and quality care - but are also trusted and depended upon for access by patients. **We are prepared to do the same for patient access to lab testing.**

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cailey Locklair".

Cailey Locklair  
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill K. McCormack".

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