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BILL NO.: **SB 62**

TITLE: Pharmacists - Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use

SPONSOR: Senator Washington

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 24, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 62 - Pharmacists - Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use. This legislation would allow pharmacists to prescribe and dispense nicotine therapy medications that are approved by the FDA.

New technologies and marketing for nicotine products have aided in the resurgence of tobacco usage, particularly among young people. Not only do these products impact lung function, but those who use tobacco products long term have an increased risk for chronic disease like heart disease, stroke, and other life threatening illnesses. Making cessation products more readily available to residents decreases the proliferation of this life threatening habit and protects the future health of young Marylanders.

This bill would expand access to treatment for nicotine addiction by allowing qualified pharmacists to prescribe and dispense approved replacement therapy medication. This legislation is an opportunity to expand access to healthcare by removing unnecessary barriers to treatment.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 62. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.