



# Board of Pharmacy

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

Jennifer L. Hardesty, Board President – Deena Speights-Napata, Executive Director

March 24, 2022

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

## **RE: Senate Bill 62 – Pharmacists – Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Support for Senate Bill (SB) 62 – Pharmacists – Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use.

SB 62 will expand the definition of “practice pharmacy” to include “prescribing and dispensing nicotine replacement therapy medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as an aid for the cessation of the use of tobacco products.” The Board will be required to promulgate regulations establishing standard procedures that a pharmacist must follow to prescribe and dispense aids for the cessation of tobacco products.

The Board supports the expansion of pharmacy to include prescribing and dispensing FDA-approved nicotine replacement products. Maryland pharmacies are convenient, community-based outlets for Marylanders to access smoking cessation treatment options, and Maryland-licensed pharmacists are well positioned to counsel patients and select appropriate nicotine replacement therapy medications.

The Board recommends a favorable report on SB 62.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at [deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov](mailto:deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov) / (410) 764 – 4753.

Sincerely,

Deena Speights-Napata, MA  
Executive Director

Jennifer L. Hardesty, PharmD, FASCP  
President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.