



Date: March 31, 2022

To: The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair

From: Aliyah N. Horton, CAE, Executive Director, MPhA, 240-688-7808

Cc: Members, Health and Government Operations Committee

Re: **SUPPORT SB 661 – Status as Health Care Providers and Study on Reimbursement**

The Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA) urges a favorable report for **SB 661 – Status as Health Care Providers and Study on Reimbursement**. The bill serves to give pharmacists the recognition they deserve as health care providers. It also directs the Maryland Insurance Commission and other stakeholders to engage in a workgroup to develop a bill that will support innovation in healthcare delivery by providing reimbursement for pharmacist-provided patient care services.

When pharmacists are recognized and engaged as important members of the health care team, patient outcomes improve, patients report higher rates of satisfaction and overall health care costs are reduced.

The bill in its current form represents a number of concessions on the part of the pharmacy community. However, we support the step forward to work collaboratively to build an understanding of the roles pharmacists play in healthcare delivery – particularly outside of the the pharmacy setting.

Provider status and the broader goal of payment for pharmacist-provided patient care services is supported by the following members of the Maryland Pharmacy Coalition:

- Maryland Pharmacists Association
- American Society of Consultant Pharmacists - Maryland Chapter
- Maryland Pharmaceutical Society
- Maryland Society of Health System Pharmacists
- University of Maryland Baltimore School of Pharmacy Student Government Association
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Pharmacy Student Government Association
- Notre Dame of Maryland University School of Pharmacy Student Government Association
- University of Maryland Baltimore School of Pharmacy
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Pharmacy
- Maryland Association of Chain Drug Stores
- Notre Dame of Maryland University School of Pharmacy

MARYLAND PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION (MPhA)

Founded in 1882, MPhA is the only state-wide professional society representing all practicing pharmacists in Maryland. Our mission is to strengthen the profession of pharmacy, advocate for all Maryland pharmacists and promote excellence in pharmacy practice.