



Maryland Farm Bureau

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January 23, 2024

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc

Re: **Opposition to SB0235 - Prescription Drug Monitoring Program - Dispensers – Veterinarians**

On behalf of our nearly 9,500 Farm Bureau families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in opposition to SB0235. This bill alters the definition of "dispenser" for purposes of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to include certain licensed veterinarians when dispensing controlled substances for animals in the usual course of providing professional service.

The burden on rural practitioners-reporting systems do not integrate with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Many of the rural practices do not have the staff needed to properly comply with the requirements of the PDMP. If veterinarians cannot prescribe during emergency hours, the patients cannot get medications until pharmacies open. The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program is not a system designed for veterinarians; it is designed for human healthcare professionals. The animal patients do not come with unique identifiers to track. The largest concern of the unintended consequences of this bill is that rural veterinarians that cannot comply with mandates may stop practicing altogether, heightening the shortage of veterinary care to rural areas and agriculture.

MDFB Policy: We oppose any initiatives, referendums, or legislation that create standards beyond sound veterinary science and best management practices in regard to raising, marketing, handling, feeding, housing, or transporting of livestock and poultry.

Maryland Farm Bureau Respectfully Opposes SB0235

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough at (443) 878-4045 with any questions