

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Andrew G. Vetter  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000

DATE: February 15, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 398 – *Health Insurance – Reimbursement and Use of Specific Pharmacies and Dispensaries – Prohibitions*

---

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 398. Senate Bill 398, among other provisions, allows a patient to obtain medications, including specialty drugs, from the pharmacy or dispensary of his/her choice (provided that the pharmacy or dispensary agrees to the term and conditions in the contract) and prohibits a patient from having to use a mail order pharmacy.

For patients with chronic and/or life-threatening conditions, timely access to treatment is critical to avoid medical complications. Patients who are required by a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) to use specialty or mail-order pharmacies often report delays in prescription delivery which, in turn, results in treatment delays. Through years of training and experience in their chosen specialty, physicians are well-informed on the medications that they prescribe to their patients and can advise their patients accordingly. Given that Senate Bill 398 would require a pharmacy or dispensary that wished to be used by a patient to meet the terms and conditions (including costs) of that PBM, this is simply about patient choice and access.

MedChi urges a favorable vote on Senate Bill 398 to provide patients with the flexibility to obtain their medications at the venue that they believe will provide them with better care and quality outcomes, which will ultimately benefit the health care system at-large.