

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Harry Bhandari

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: March 3, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1219 – *Pharmacists – Status as Health Care Providers and Reimbursement*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendment** House Bill 1219.

House Bill 1219 makes various changes affecting the reimbursement of pharmacists. MedChi does not take issue with the payment parity provisions of the legislation but believes that some aspects of the bill need to be clarified so that House Bill 1219 does not become a scope of practice bill.

First, on page 3 at line 14, the bill states that coverage shall be provided if “the services are within the scope of practice of the licensed pharmacist.” We believe that for purposes of clarity the following should be added to the end of that sentence: “...as provided by Title 12 of the Health Occupations Article”. The same change should be made on page 4 at line 15.

Second, page 3 of the bill at line 15 amends the Health-General Article regarding human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing and other aspects of the statute. It is our understanding that the bill is not intended to permit pharmacists to conduct HIV testing, however that intent is not clear in our read of the legislation. With a better understanding of what aspects of this statute are sought to be changed, we believe amendments can be agreed upon.

For these reasons, MedChi supports with amendments House Bill 1219.

For more information call:

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