



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

House Health Committee
March 4, 2026
House Bill 1150 – *Health Occupations – Pharmacists –
Minor Conditions and HIV Prevention and Treatment*
POSITION: OPPOSE

On behalf of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, and the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), we submit this letter of **opposition** for House Bill 1150.

House Bill 1150 would allow pharmacists to prescribe drugs and devices and to treat an ill-defined group of “minor conditions”. This legislation poses a number of practical and medical concerns, all of which lead us to strongly oppose it.

From a practical perspective, this bill seeks to give already overburdened pharmacists responsibility for patient care. According to a November 2, 2023, Wall Street Journal article entitled “*Why Your Neighborhood Pharmacy Isn’t So Friendly Anymore*”, a pharmacist who had recently left a national pharmacy chain said the following: “[Pharmacy] Companies have put in place practices that drive revenue and have created a fast-food scenario. Vaccinations every five minutes. Fill prescriptions in 15 minutes. All of the focus was on profits, but not better staffing, better pay or better training.” The article goes on to quote the CEO of the American Pharmacists Association, who said, “Chain drugstores and others haven’t been providing an adequate amount of staffing for pharmacies, and the pharmacist is being asked to do a whole lot more than putting pills in bottles.” Adding the ability to diagnose and treat certain conditions to the workload of already overworked pharmacists, pharmacy techs, and pharmacy students, as the bill does, raises significant concerns about patient safety.

Another practical concern is where would these services be provided in the pharmacy—behind a curtain next to the prescription pick-up line? Most patients would not be comfortable discussing their possible urinary tract infection, one of the conditions covered by the bill, in such environs, nor should they be.

The medical concerns posed by this bill are manifold. First, the conditions that may be covered are ill-defined. They include conditions that “do not require a new diagnosis,” or that are “minor and self-limiting,” though it is very unclear what those phrases mean. What may appear to be a “minor” condition may be anything but. Even a cough can be a symptom of a much greater health risk than the flu, and skin conditions can be symptomatic of more substantial underlying health concerns that pharmacists are not trained to recognize.

Pharmacists are an extremely valuable part of the health care team. But just as physicians are not trained to do all that pharmacists do, pharmacists are not trained to properly treat health concerns like those covered by the bill. This bill simply entrusts too much responsibility to pharmacists for accurately diagnosing and treating health issues, and for that reason MedChi and MDACEP oppose the bill.

For more information call:

J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000