



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS®

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THE PLASTIC SURGERY
FOUNDATION™

Maryland Society of Plastic Surgeons
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
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March 28, 2019

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Pass H.B. 1288

Dear Chair Pinsky and Vice Chair Nathan-Pulliam:

On behalf of the Maryland Society of Plastic Surgeons (MDSPS) and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), we are writing in support of H.B. 1288, which would allow physicians to dispense certain prepackaged topicals with a special permit from the pharmacy board. MDSPS is the largest association of plastic surgeons in Maryland, and in conjunction with our national affiliate, ASPS, we collectively represent 177 board-certified plastic surgeons in the state. Our mission is to advance quality care for plastic surgery patients and promote public policy that serves patients.

We welcome H.B. 1288, as it would clarify that physicians may be allowed to dispense certain prepackaged topicals without a license from the Maryland State Board of Pharmacy. Under current law, licensed physicians are not prohibited from personally preparing and dispensing their own prescriptions. However, even with the enactment of Chapter 116 of the 2016 Laws of Maryland – which clarified that physicians may dispense a prescription written by a physician assistant or nurse practitioner – the specific parameters of physician dispensing remain nebulous. Per the Maryland Office of Controlled Substances Administration (OCSA), this bill would affect only a small number of physicians. Therefore, the overall impact of authorizing that group of physicians to dispense certain prepackaged topicals with a special permit would be minimal.

Given that physicians are already allowed to dispense prescription drugs under certain circumstances and the impact of this new policy to the status quo would be negligible, we urge you to pass H.B. 1288. Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Hermes, ASPS's Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, at phermes@plasticsurgery.org or Gene Ransom, Executive Director of MedChi, at gransom@medchi.org | 410-539-0872 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Alan Matarasso, MD, FACS
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons

James E. Chappell, MD, FACS
President, Maryland Society of Plastic Surgeons

cc: Members, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee