Statement of Attorney General Frosh on Purdue Pharma Guilty Pleas

BALTIMORE, MD (October 21, 2020) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today released the following statement after an announcement that Purdue Pharma will plead guilty to federal criminal charges for its role in the nation’s opioid crisis:

“Purdue Pharma’s guilty pleas to federal charges acknowledge some of the unlawful conduct through which Purdue has inflicted untold harm upon the public. The federal government’s settlement, however, fails to hold the Sacklers accountable for their actions and falls short of providing the justice and relief needed from the decades of misconduct by Purdue and the Sacklers that state attorneys general have been pursuing. Justice against the Sacklers and Purdue, and relief for the public from the opioid crisis, will require substantially more work. My office will continue to work to hold the Sacklers and Purdue accountable for their egregious behavior.”

In May, 2019, Attorney General Frosh joined four other attorneys general in filing charges against Purdue and members of the Sackler family for allegedly engaging in a pattern of deceptive conduct that encouraged the inappropriate use of opioids for patients who suffer from common chronic pain conditions, helping fuel the nation’s opioid crisis.