

Written Testimony in Support of HB 670

As a Maryland State employee for nearly 40 years, I was deeply concerned to hear that Maryland State retirees will be losing their existing prescription benefits. The Maryland General Assembly voted in 2011 to move retirees from the State sponsored prescription plan (SilverScript plan) to Medicare Part D. A court injunction prevented the State from acting on this move until now, but the injunction was lifted in July. Moving retiree prescription benefits to Medicare Part D could mean that retirees will need to pay more out-of-pocket for their prescriptions, depending on the Part D plan chosen.

According to the Towson University Retired Faculty Association, last year there were 19 different Part D plans available in Maryland. For one person used as a test subject, total annual out-of-pocket costs of the Part D plans were between \$3,720 and \$49,597 more expensive than the current State SilverScript Plan, depending on the Part D plan chosen. The primary reason for the cost difference is that the State SilverScript Plan covers more prescription drugs than any of the Part D plans. Also, Medicare Part D is an individual plan while the State offers a family plan. If retirees are moved to Medicare Part D, when I retire, my spouse and I will have to pay for separate prescription plans.

I believe this is very unfair to State employees who have spent their lives in State service and are now having this vital benefit severely negatively impacted. I urge you to please support this legislation which would restore these benefits to Maryland State retirees. Thank you so much for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,
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