

RE: HB0670 - State Prescription Drug Benefits - Retirees

Date: March 7, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

After being self-employed for many years, I was fortunate to obtain employment with the Maryland Judiciary where I worked until retiring. With that employment I was promised certain benefits in retirement which included prescription coverage, among other things. Those promises are what motivated me to continue my employment with the State for 22 years.

Much of my career involved serving as a Human Resources representative where I educated other State employees about these benefits, encouraging them toward a career with the State with these considerations in mind.

My husband and I work hard to maintain our good health. I am however, a breast cancer survivor and I have glaucoma. There is always the worry of a cancer recurrence and to maintain stability with my eyesight, I must use two (2) types of prescription eyedrops daily, that without prescription coverage, costs around \$1,200 per month. We both require other maintenance medications to sustain our well-being which will continue for the rest of our lives.

Regarding the pending healthcare bill pertaining to illegal immigrants having access to the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, I strongly feel that I, and other eligible Maryland State Retirees should receive the benefits that we worked for and were promised for many years BEFORE sharing those resources with others.

Please do the right thing and reinstate the Prescription Drug Benefit for Maryland State Retirees thereby returning what should never have been taken from us. Thank you for your time and consideration, and in closing, please let me quote Delegate Mark Fisher who too, is in favor of reinstating the State retiree prescription coverage: "A promise made is a promise that must be kept."

Sincerely,

Laura Petrillo