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**Betty Williams** <mymtnborn@gmail.com>

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12:34 PM

Dear Committee Members

I have contacted my representative many times reference the prescription drug plan. I must say it is shocking that the retired state employees are left begging to retain their prescription benefits. The one and only reason I went to work for the State of Maryland was for the benefits. Through the years the State took away our 35 hour work week with no added income. They changed the retirement system enticing many to transfer to a system whereby their cost of living raises were reduced. They also said we really didn't need it because we would be receiving social security. Now we see the condition of social security and many politicians want to take that away from us.

I was brought up as a Democrat and taught that this party was for the working people. How did we ever come to the point that in order to save money, we would take it off the backs of retired employees. Most of the retirees I know are around 80 years of age, have no chance of increasing their income and should not be put in a position of choosing a new prescription program.

Over the past few months, I have seen many comments about Medicare part D that were negative. Retirees feel that they are trapped in Medicare Advantage Programs and are finding that many treatments are not covered. Also I have read there will be big changes to Medicare part D in 2025 including price increases. Does any of this matter to our elected politicians?

The Medicare Part D program eliminates many of the drugs that are now available to us at a time when we need them the most.. I have perused the bill for life sustaining drugs stating there will be a system in which CERTAIN drugs will be approved for CERTAIN people but I cannot understand who exactly makes that decision. Is it a doctor, is it the State of Maryland and at what income level will these drugs be available?

After 40 years of service with the State of Maryland, I respectfully ask that you look elsewhere for monies needed. I realize this is not an easy task but the impact on your retirees is substantial. Many will go without needed medication. Maryland retirees are a diverse group and I would dare say the average retirement is on the lower end of the spectrum. We need the prescription drug program. This is our last chance, please don't let us down. Please do the right thing; let your conscience be your guide.

Respectfully

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