



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Favor of SB-1019, Maryland Share the Savings Act

When citizens across the country go to get their prescriptions filled today, they will have to pay exorbitant amounts for these life-saving medications—even with insurance. Insurance is designed to help people pay for their medical expenses, but as it currently stands, it is helping companies make an extra profit.

In 2022, health insurers made over \$40 billion in profits off the necessities of people across the country needing medical care. There are a few reasons for these record-breaking revenue numbers. Firstly, the cost of medical care and prescriptions in the United States is one of the highest in the world. This high cost of care requires consumers to take out insurance plans to not go bankrupt paying for the care they need and deserve. However, this contract, often signed out of desperation, is not fair. As it currently stands, consumers pay much more than insurers for things they need, but in many cases, they cannot afford to pay out of pocket.

Now, it is getting more difficult for Marylanders to pay, even with insurance. This bill seeks to address this issue by creating a more equitable cost-sharing by requiring the insurer to provide at least 85% of the total amount of rebates to be subtracted from a prescription drug's listing price.

This allows the monetary benefits that companies receive to be passed on to the consumer, not just the drawbacks and price increases. It would be an essential win toward affordable prescription drugs for all Marylanders. By requiring price sharing between insurers and the insured, we can offset the inequality in pricing. This is because, in many cases, the consumer pays the full list price, while private entities often negotiate discounts but do not pass that discount on to their customers.

By passing this bill, Maryland would show a commitment to putting people over profit. After all, we cannot “leave no one behind” if we leave our citizens in debt and poverty as they try to pay for the prescriptions they need to exercise their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

For these reasons, I request a favorable committee report on SB-1019.