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BILL NO.: **SB 388**

TITLE: Prescription Drug Affordability Board – Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs For All Marylanders Now Act)

SPONSOR: Senator Gile

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 7, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 388 – Prescription Drug Affordability Board – Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding (Lower Prescription Drug Costs For All Marylanders Now Act). This legislation would expand the authority of the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to determine if it is in the state’s interest to set up a process to use upper payment limits on the purchases of all prescription drugs, with the goal of reducing drug costs for all Marylanders, not just state employees.

Too many Marylanders are struggling with the high cost of prescription drugs. These costs have forced residents to make difficult decisions, cut back on necessary expenses, and even ration life-saving medications in order to make ends meet. The rising costs of prescription drugs can disrupt both the possibility of retirement and the quality of life that every resident deserves. Baltimore County prioritizes lowering the costs of these essential drugs for all County residents through the Baltimore County Prescription Drug Affordability Board. By setting upper limits on the costs of these medications, the Board has enabled Baltimore County to continue making critical investments in the health and wellbeing of our residents and communities.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 388 from the Senate Finance Committee For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.