



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Alonzo T. Washington

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
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RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 1019 – *Health Benefit Plans – Prescription Drugs – Rebates and Calculation of Cost Sharing Requirements*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) writes in **support** of *Senate Bill 1019: Health Benefit Plans – Prescription Drugs – Rebates and Calculation of Cost Sharing Requirements*. We are a community of nearly 800 Maryland member companies that span the full range of the technology sector. Our vision is to propel Maryland to become the number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology in the nation. We bring our members together and build Maryland's innovation economy through advocacy, networking, and education.

This bill would base a patient's share of a prescription drug on the list price of the drug reduced by at least 85% of the reasonable estimated total of rebates received by an insurance carrier or pharmacy benefits manager (PBM). Negotiations between drug manufacturers, insurance carriers, and PBMs result in significant rebates and discounts that go from manufacturers to the carriers and PBMs. Under current law, those carriers and PBMs are free to keep the entire benefit of that rebate amount. Under this legislation, however, those carriers and PBMs would have to share at least 85% of those savings with patients.

Prescription drug affordability has been a major focus of the Maryland General Assembly, and separate legislation is being considered to expand the authority of the Prescription Drug Affordability Board. As MTC testified during the hearing on that legislation, we do not believe such an expansion will have the intended effect of lowering costs for patients. We believe that the solution offered in Senate Bill 1019 would provide immediate relief to patients. If insurers and PBMs are required to share the savings they negotiate with manufacturers with patients, patients see an immediate benefit. We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 1019.