



# *Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network*

## **MSCAN**

*AARP Maryland*

*Alzheimer's  
Association,  
Maryland Chapters*

*Baltimore Jewish  
Council*

*Catholic Charities*

*Central Maryland  
Ecumenical Council*

*Church of the Brethren*

*Episcopal Diocese of  
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities  
Commission of  
Montgomery County*

*Jewish Community  
Relations Council of  
Greater Washington*

*Lutheran Office on  
Public Policy in  
Maryland*

*Maryland Association of  
Area Agencies on Aging*

*Maryland Catholic  
Conference*

*Mental Health  
Association of Maryland*

*Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan*

*National Association of  
Social Workers,  
Maryland Chapter*

*Presbytery of Baltimore*

*The Coordinating  
Center*

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## **Testimony in Support of SB 388 Prescription Drug Affordability Board-Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Act of 2024) Senate Finance Committee February 7, 2024**

The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that supports policies that meet the housing, health, and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

SB 388 would allow the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to establish a process for setting upper payment limits for all purchases and payor reimbursements of prescription drug products in the State.

Americans are worried about the high cost of prescription drugs. They are looking for politicians to push for legislative solutions like the Prescription Drug Affordability Board. AARP surveyed a nationally representative sample of more than 1,000 adults 50 and older in September about the price of medications, knowledge of recent Medicare-related legislation, and the likelihood of voting for congressional candidates who support measures to address prescription drug costs.

The survey shows that 60% of respondents are very or somewhat concerned about being able to afford buying the medication they or someone in their family might need. This finding holds regardless of political ideology. Meanwhile, women (63%) are slightly more concerned than men (56%) about the issue.

Older adults need access to affordable prescription drugs. Nobody should have to choose between the drugs they need to live and necessities like housing or food. SB 388 would expand the authority of the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to make high-cost prescription

MSCAN believes that state governments should implement proven programs to increase access to appropriate drug pricing.

MSCAN respectfully requests a favorable report for on SB 388.