



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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House Bill 340

In Support Of

**Prescription Drug Affordability Board – Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding
(Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Act of 2024)**

Health and Government Operations Committee

Hearing: February 8, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.

Dear Honorable Delegate Joseline Penao-Melnyk Chair, Delegate Bonnie Cullison,
Vice- Chair and Committee members,

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) supports HB340.

MRSPA members include teachers, administrators, counselors, librarians, custodians, bus drivers and others who worked in the education of our Maryland students. Our health care is provided by the local Boards of Education not by the state or local governments. Enhancing health care is one of our highest priorities. We would like to be included in the people covered by the Drug Affordability Board.

The pensions that have been earned by our members are modest at best and seriously lacking for too many. We do not want our members to be in the position where they must choose between their necessary and life changing medications or paying their mortgages, food, rent, or skipping the medication.

The pharmaceutical industry claims that this will reduce the money available to them for research and development. Yet, they are able to pay exceptionally high salaries to their managers and large profits to their shareholders. They should also acknowledge that much of the research they use is funded by the taxpayers through agencies such as the National Institutes of Health.

This is the appropriate time to expand the authority of the Drug Affordability Board to all Marylanders. On behalf of the 12,000 members of MRSPA, we urge your support for HB 340 The Lowering Prescription Drug Costs For All Marylanders Now Act.

Sincerely,

Carla J. Duls
President

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide