



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 HB340 Prescription Drug Affordability Board-Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Act of 2024)

House Health and Government Operations Committee February 8, 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.

HB 340 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. HB 340 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 HB 340.