



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

DATE: February 29, 2024

RE: HB939 - Health Insurance - Epinephrine Injectors - Limits on
Cost Sharing - Epinephrine Cost Reduction Act of 2024
Testimony

The MLLC supports HB939 - Health Insurance - Epinephrine Injectors - Limits on Cost Sharing - Epinephrine Cost Reduction Act of 2024 Testimony, 2024

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB939.

As of July 2022, Maryland's food allergy population was estimated at 622,692, more than 10% of the state's residents.¹ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the rates of children with food allergies have more than doubled, and for children with a peanut or tree nut allergy, it has tripled in the last 20 years.² Life-threatening food allergies and the risk of fatal anaphylaxis are growing at an even faster rate among Latino and Asian-American children.³ According to FARE, a twin-pack of epinephrine injectors can cost upwards of \$700.⁴ For a typical family living in Baltimore with an eight-year-old girl with a peanut allergy, they must purchase, each and every year, at least 2 two-packs of epinephrine auto-injectors, one for at home and the other at school, which means that their total cost of \$1,400 is nearly 70% of the median monthly mortgage payment in Maryland – \$2,013.⁵

By limiting the amount insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations that offer prescription drug coverage for a covered prescription of a twin-pack medically necessary epinephrine injector to not more than \$60, regardless of the type epinephrine injector needed, HB939 will reduce the amount that covered individuals pay in co-payments, co-insurance, and deductibles.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB939.

¹ [Food Allergy Research and Education \(FARE\)](#)

² Ibid.

³ [Jiang et al.](#)

⁴ [Food Allergy Research and Education \(FARE\)](#)

⁵ Ibid.