



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 357

Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits
(Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Now Act)

Before the Senate Finance Committee

By Laura Packard, Founder, Voices of Health Care Action

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Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes, and Members of the Finance Committee;

We are testifying **in favor of SB 357**, which would grant Maryland's Prescription Drug Affordability Board the expanded authority to set statewide upper payment limits to make high-cost drugs more affordable for *all* Marylanders.

Voices of Health Care Action is a non-profit organizing adults with serious medical conditions and health care activists to make health care in America more affordable and available for all. I am representing 4,671 Marylanders, some of whom have reached out directly to their state legislators already in support of this bill. Patients, physicians, we all know that drugs don't work if people can't afford them.

Maryland's first-in-the-nation Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) serves as a watchdog for Maryland, examining high-cost prescription drugs and determining ways to make them more affordable.

Yet too many Marylanders are forced to skip doses, cut their pills in half, or leave a prescription at the pharmacy counter while pharmaceutical corporations make record-breaking profits. Maryland's PDAB is doing great work, but its current authority is limited to addressing costs for only state and local government entities.

Now we need to take action for everyone else.

At a time when one in three Marylanders reports having skipped a dose or rationed medication due to cost, it's critical to expand the PDAB.

We thank you for your consideration of this issue and strongly urge a yes vote on Senate Bill 357.