



Testimony: **Favorable** Report on SB 357

Feb. 4, 2025

Prescription Drug Affordability Board-Authority for Upper Payment Limits

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

Thank you for holding a hearing on this important legislation. It's critical for Maryland to expand the Board's authority, especially at this time. The Board has made headway using the UPL Action Plan to position state and local governments to see savings on drug costs. Now we need to make high-cost medicines affordable for ALL Maryland residents and the Board needs your support to make that happen.

Given the dangerous actions of the Trump Administration and the power grab by his key backer, the unelected and unaccountable Elon Musk, we don't know if Medicare will be able to continue negotiating drug prices. We fear drug company lobbyists (and there are hundreds in Congress) will have even more say in undermining policies that regulate the price gouging that everyday Americans are experiencing for a whole range of drugs.

Progressive Maryland is a statewide grassroots advocacy group working for a more robust, equitable and patient centered healthcare system. We're engaged with folks across the state and no matter where we are, we regularly hear from our supporters that they are struggling with the overall high cost of healthcare, particularly what they must pay for life sustaining and life saving medications. We've talked to parents who ration the medication they take in order to have the money they need to cover the prescription drugs their kids or their parents need. Our supporters have also asked us to focus on the crisis in health insurance denials. The two go hand in hand because, as you know, denials of care happen most frequently for doctor prescribed drugs in part because of the high cost.

Thank you for making this issue a priority. We urge a favorable report of Senate Bill 357 and ask that you urge your Senate colleagues to do the same when it comes up for a vote in the Senate.

Sincerely,

Patty Snee, Lead Organizer Healthcare Issue Campaigns

patty@progressivemaryland.org

301 655-5682

District 20 Resident