

**LEGISLATIVE POSITION: UNFAVORABLE**

**OPPOSE** House Bill 321 - Pharmacy Benefits Managers – Definition of Purchaser and Alteration of Application of Law

Written Testimony of Allegany County Board of Commissioners  
Prepared for the Senate Finance Committee

March 25, 2025

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

The Allegany County Commissioners strongly oppose House Bill 321 because of its detrimental effect on our ability to provide affordable and accessible healthcare to our government employees through our ERISA self-funded plans.

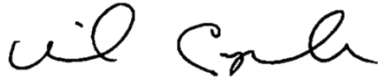
Local governments are already facing unprecedented challenges, including federal and state budget cuts, falling revenues, and increased costs. The sweeping policy changes that HB 321 would bring to our ERISA plan will only make a bad situation worse for local governments across Maryland. If enacted, the policy changes from this bill will increase our costs dramatically and diminish coverage options for our hard-working public servants.

ERISA-based plans have been the cornerstone of local government healthcare plans for over 50 years. They have provided uniform regulations, cost-saving measures, and flexibility in benefit design for the needs of our public workforce. The state has never played a role in this process and should not begin to do so now. These plans work most effectively and efficiently as a local process. This legislation will undoubtedly disrupt our ability to provide our government workforce with the best and most fiscally responsible benefits for their public service.

While local governments like ours often cannot match private-sector salaries, our ability to provide excellent benefits to our workforce is a significant factor in attracting quality public servants. Undermining ERISA plans will also undermine our ability to recruit the best public workforce. The bottom line is that if HB 321 passes, Maryland lawmakers will be responsible for dramatically increasing healthcare costs for local governments across the state. As we face historic fiscal pressures, let's not add another unnecessary cost to local governments.

Therefore, the Allegany County Commissioners urge an unfavorable report on HB 321. Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of opposition. If you have any questions, please contact us at 301-777-5911.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Caporale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Caporale" clearly distinguishable.

David J. Caporale

701 Kelly Road  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
E [countyclerk@alleganygov.org](mailto:countyclerk@alleganygov.org)  
T 301 777-5911  
[alleganygov.org](http://alleganygov.org)