



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** House Bill 424: Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Now Act)

**SPONSORED BY:** Delegates B. Cullison, J. White Holland

**HEARING DATE:** February 6, 2025 1:00PM

**COMMITTEES:** Health and Government Operations

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The office of the Acting Prince George's County Executive urges **SUPPORT** of **House Bill 424: Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Now Act)**, requiring the Prescription Drug Affordability Board, under certain circumstances, to establish a process for setting upper payment limits for all purchases and payor reimbursements of prescription drug products in the State that the Board determines have led or will lead to affordability challenges; authorizing the Board to reconsider an upper payment limit for a drug that becomes a current shortage; altering requirements related to the setting of upper payment limits by the Board; prohibiting the Board from taking certain actions related to upper payment limits; and generally relating to the Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

Since 2019, Prince Georgians have worked diligently besides a State-wide coalition to pursue common sense regulations to make healthcare more accessible and reduce potential financial harm to patients. In 2022, Prince George's County again joined State leaders, caregivers, advocates and patients to demand further action to address the high cost of drugs to our constituents by urging this body to use its authority to enact rules that would place upper payment limits on what state and local governments pay for prescription drugs.

Today, once more, we join in a growing chorus to bring attention to this persistent concern which deserves the State's attention: the high cost of certain drugs is

making them unaffordable for many residents and action is needed today. The Prescription Drug Affordability Board should make use of its authority and help Marylanders everywhere by bringing the cost of life-saving medicine back within reach of not only the constituent, but also the government agencies which rely on those drugs to care for their constituents.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Acting Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS HB 424** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.