



Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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February 6, 2025

Bill: SB 357/ HB 424 Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Act of 2024)
Committee: Senate – Finance; House – Health and Government Operations
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the County Commissioners for Charles County, this letter is to express support for SB 357/ HB 424 Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Act of 2024). This bill builds upon the Prescription Drug Affordability Board law you enacted in 2019 by expanding the Board's authority to make high cost drugs more affordable for all Marylanders.

According to a recent poll conducted by OpinionWorks, 45 percent of Maryland households have had trouble affording their necessary medications. This equates to our residents skipping necessary doses in order to ration their medication, or not even filling the needed prescription at all. Additionally, the cost of prescription drugs also means that public health workers are unable to afford the cost of medications, such as naloxone, EpiPen's and other needed medications, crippling our ability to respond during a medical crisis, despite the existence of these lifesaving drugs.

With passage of SB 357/HB424, the Board will have the authority it needs to use upper payment limits to make high cost drugs more affordable for all Marylanders. For the reasons stated herein, we encourage a FAVORABLE report. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq.

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President
County Commissioners of Charles County

cc: Charles County Delegation