



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 6, 2025

TO: The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

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

House Bill 424 requires the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to make a recommendation and 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. The bill prohibits the setting of a payment limit of a drug that is in short supply in the State.

Since 2019, Maryland has been a leader in reigning in the cost of prescription drugs with the establishment of the Prescription Drug Affordability Board. Accessing affordable prescriptions is a life or death issue for our residents, which is why I write to you today to urge you to make it a priority of the 2025 Session to expand the authority of the Board so that all Marylanders can receive the benefits of making expensive prescription drugs more affordable.

Currently, the Prescription Drug Affordability Board can set upper payment limits for prescription drugs purchased by state, county, or local governments. Substantial savings on pharmaceutical expenses in our County budget have started to take shape since the Board's limits were put in place late last year. Yet it is only right that everyone in our County enjoy these savings, not just those who work in our government. Therefore, it is critical that the Board should be enabled to expand upper payment limits to all purchases of prescription drug throughout the State.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 424.

cc: Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee