



Bill No: HB424
Title: Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Now Act)
Committee: Health and Government Operations
Hearing: February 6, 2025
Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW's purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **HB424 - Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Now Act)** is a priority on the [2025 MLAW Agenda](#) and we urge your support.

HB424 would grant Maryland's Prescription Drug Affordability Board the expanded authority to set statewide upper payment limits to make high-cost drugs more affordable for *all* Marylanders. We have been pleased to see the progress the Board has made over the last year, particularly the approval of its Upper Payment Limit Action Plan to make prescription drugs more affordable for state and local governments. However, the fact remains that we must do more to directly help Marylanders struggling to afford their medications. This legislation would provide meaningful relief to our families and neighbors at a time when so many Marylanders are forced to choose between filling their prescriptions and filling their fridges.

Polling shows as many as 45% of Marylanders report struggling to afford the medicines they need, with one third of Marylanders skipping a dose, rationing medication, or leaving a prescription unfilled due to cost. At the same time, skyrocketing drug costs are contributing to all of our health insurance premiums, making quality coverage less affordable for our residents. Meanwhile, prescription drug corporations use far more resources on self-enrichment and advertising than they do on research and development, regularly prioritizing profits over patients. Marylanders should not have to choose between their prescription drugs and other necessities. With federal action on this issue uncertain under the new administration, it is critical that Maryland, under the guidance of this committee, continues to lead the nation on prescription drug affordability efforts

For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of HB424.

MLAW 2025 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2025 Legislative Agenda:

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
AAUW Anne Arundel County
AAUW Garrett Branch
AAUW Howard County
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch
AAUW Maryland
Anne Arundel County NOW
Bound for Better, advocates for Domestic Violence
Calvert County Democratic Womens' Club
Charles County Commission for Womrn
Child Justice, Inc.
City of College Park MD
Court Watch Montgomery
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority North Arundel County Alumnae Chapter
FinnCORE, Inc.
Frederick County Commission for Women
Interfaith Action for Human Rights
Kids for Saving Earth
Maryland Chapter, National Organization for Women
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Montgomery County, MD, NOW
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Anne Arundel County Chapter
NCBWSOMD
ShareBaby, Inc.
Stella's Girls Incorporated
SUB&S LLC
The Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center of UMB
Trans Maryland
Unrooted Culture
Women of Honor International
Women's Equality Day Celebration across Maryland Coalition
Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN)
Women's Law Center of Maryland

*signed on as of 1/26/2025

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

**102 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100 • Towson, MD 21204 • 443-519-1005 phone/fax
mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com • www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org**