



**Testimony to the House Health & Government Operations Committee
HB424 Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits
(Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Now Act)**

Position: Favorable

February 6, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Health & Government Operations Committee
Room 241, HOB
Annapolis, MD 21401
cc: Members, Health & Government Operations Committee

Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances economic rights and equity for Maryland families through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

We are here in support of HB424 which 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. Medical debt is a problem for 14% of Maryland households and the high cost of prescription drugs is one of the many prohibitive costs that families across the state struggle to afford.

From our direct service programs assisting tenants and older adults, we hear stories about individuals rationing their medication or making difficult choices between their prescriptions and their food or utilities. 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 all these reasons we support HB424 and urge a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White
Executive Director

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Economic Action Maryland Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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