

# SHORE PROGRESS

## SENATE BILL 357: LOWERING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS FOR ALL MARYLANDERS NOW ACT

POSITION: FAVORABLE

### **Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,**

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**My name is James Reedy, and I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0357 on behalf of Shore Progress.** Shore Progress (formerly the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus) is a non-partisan civic organization covering the Eastern Shore of Maryland. We support this bill because it will provide instant relief for Marylanders suffering from overpriced prescription medication. I was diagnosed with a rare dermatological condition on December 31, 2024. After consulting with my dermatologist regarding pain that had persisted for months, it was determined that I needed a medication called Doxepin. Upon picking up the medicine, the pharmacy clerk informed me it would cost about \$700 since my health insurance would not cover the cost. I know that not every Marylander has that kind of money in savings, which eventually helped the pain subside.

#### **We support this bill because it:**

1. **It Reduces Medical Debt:** 100 million people in the United States live with medical debt. Here on the Eastern Shore, nearly 21-30% of residents in Dorchester & Wicomico County are living in medical debt, along with 31-40% of Somerset County residents. This bill aims to reduce this debt.
2. **It Provides Economic Stimulation:** When Marylanders are not spending money on prescription drug bills, it gives them the freedom to spend money elsewhere in the economy and within their local communities.

**By making this a priority, you can give Marylanders the freedom to reduce their debt, participate more freely in the economy, and ensure no one is left behind from overpriced prescription drugs.**

**We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.**

**SHORE PROGRESS**

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