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February 27, 2020

To: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Patricia F. O'Connor, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

Re: House Bill 652 (Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Specialty Drugs - Definition): Letter of Concern

The Office of the Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit (HEAU) has concerns regarding House Bill 652, which would alter the definition of "specialty drug" to exclude a prescription drug prescribed to treat diabetes, HIV or AIDS. By doing so, it appears that the current law's limitations on copays and coinsurance for specialty drugs would no longer apply to these drugs for diabetes, HIV and AIDS. Unless equivalent protections are available by some other means, we are concerned about adverse consequences for patients requiring these life-sustaining prescription drugs.

cc: Delegate Kipke, Sponsor
Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee