



MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 1100

BEFORE THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

By Vincent DeMarco, President of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, Inc.

March 5, 2020

Chairman Pendergrass, Vice-Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the HGO Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1100, a measure to make some technical amendments to the legislation you enacted during the 2019 Session creating the Prescription Drug Affordability Board. We strongly urge the Committee to give a favorable report to HB 1100.

Thanks to your leadership, last year Maryland became the first state in the nation to create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board charged with making high cost prescription drugs more affordable for Marylanders. Since you acted, legislators and advocates in over a dozen other states have asked us to help them replicate this success. We have been traveling all across the country spreading the word about your great work.

We are very pleased with the membership of Maryland's Prescription Drug Affordability Board. The Board Chair, Van Mitchell, is uniquely qualified for this role and has been doing a great job in getting the Board started. We agree with the changes to the 2019 law outlined in HB 1100, including changing the required meeting times of the board and clarifying the role of the Office of the Attorney General. We urge your support for HB 1100.