



MARYLAND
Prescription Drug Affordability Board

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February 25, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

RE: HB 1034 – Prescription Drug Affordability Board – Plan of Action – Repeal of Date for Submission – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board (the “Board”) is submitting this Letter of Support for House Bill (HB) 1034 – Prescription Drug Affordability Board – Plan of Action – Repeal of Date for Submission.

The proposed legislation repeals the date by which the Board would be required to submit a plan of action for the process of setting upper payment limits, if the Board finds that such a plan would be in the best interest of the State. The Board supports this legislation and its repeal of the reporting date. Beyond the repeal of the date for submission, the legislation does not change the Board’s timeline or its course of work. Instead, this change will provide the Board with flexibility, which is needed in part due to complications related to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the 2020 Session, this Committee supported similar legislation, HB 1100 (Chapter 425), that modified deadlines for certain studies and reports from the Board. The date for submission identified in HB 1034 was not included in that legislation. By December 2021, the Board will complete its mandated study of the Maryland pharmaceutical system, identify affordability issues affecting Marylanders, and provide a full and informed list of recommended policy actions, including upper payment limits if appropriate.

I hope the Committee finds this information useful. If you would like to discuss this or other issues further, please do not hesitate to contact Kris Vallecillo at (410) 978-0515 or kris.vallecillo3@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Kris Vallecillo
Manager, Policy and Special Projects