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**Senate Bill 355 – HIV Prevention Drugs – Dispensing by  
Pharmacists and Insurance Requirements**

**OPPOSE**

**House Health and Government Operations Committee**

**March 24, 2022**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 355 – HIV Prevention Drugs – Dispensing by Pharmacists and Insurance Requirements.

The Maryland Managed Care Organization Association (MMCOA), which is comprised of all nine MCOs that serve Medicaid, is committed to ensuring access to the prescription drugs and devices that our members depend on for their health. Maryland's nine MCOs serve over 1.5 million Marylanders through the Medicaid HealthChoice program.

While we support efforts to improve member access to care, this bill may increase costs to the Health Choice program through the limitation of which drug is administered under the bill's provisions.

In addition, we believe the legislation presents clinical concerns for our members by eliminating the provider/patient education and evaluation that is critical, based on the patient's medical history and current needs. We do not support elimination of prior authorization and step therapy for PrEP. Furthermore, we would also want to encourage more communication on generic equivalency as part of the testing for HepC and HIV.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose Senate Bill 355.

The MMCOA looks forward to continued collaboration with the State as we work to identify ways to improve access to affordable high-quality care for all Medicaid participants.

*Please contact Jennifer Briemann, Executive Director of MMCOA, with any questions regarding this testimony at [jbriemann@marylandmco.org](mailto:jbriemann@marylandmco.org).*