

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Christine K. Krone

DATE: March 15, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1397 – *Health Insurance – Prescription Insulin Drugs – Limits on Copayment and Coinsurance (Insulin Cost Reduction Act)*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 1397. This bill requires a carrier that provides coverage for prescription drugs (including coverage provided through a pharmacy benefits manager) to limit the cumulative amount an insured is required to pay in copayments or coinsurance for a covered prescription insulin drug to no more than \$30 for a 30-day supply, regardless of the amount or type of insulin needed to fill the covered individual's prescriptions.

According to the Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 10.5 percent of Maryland adults have diabetes and thirty-four percent, or approximately 1.6 million, of Maryland adults have prediabetes. Those with diabetes often need insulin to avoid complications that include kidney failure, blindness, leg or foot amputation, heart attack, stroke, and even death. However, over the years, insulin has continued to drastically increase, forcing many to reduce their dosage or skip their daily dose. For those that are in state-regulated insurance plans, House Bill 1397 would limit the cost they are paying for their insulin and ensure that insulin is affordable, allowing them to properly manage their diabetes and avoid more costly conditions. Therefore, MedChi supports House Bill 1397 and urges a favorable vote.

**For more information call:**

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