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February 2, 2023

**TO:** The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, Health & Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer  
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** HB 0279 Prescription Drug Affordability Board – Upper Payment Limits  
(SUPPORT)

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In 2019, the Office of the Attorney General supported the creation of the Prescription Drug Affordability Board because the rising costs of prescription drugs was threatening the lives and health of Marylanders who were finding it increasingly difficult to afford taking their prescription drugs.

The Office supports House Bill 279, which simply reinstates the statutory provisions that sunset on January 1, 2023. The legislation imposes no new obligations—it largely reinstates the statutes that were rendered null and void by the sunset provision. State residents and stakeholders within the health care system continue to need protections from the escalating costs of prescription drug products. Allowing the Board to continue its policy work concerning upper payment limits is an important step in helping consumers by improving prescription drug affordability.

The Attorney General thanks the sponsor for this bill reinstating the statutory provisions and asks the Committee to return a favorable report on this bill.

**cc:** The Honorable Bonnie Cullison  
Members, Health and Government Operations Committee