



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Shared Voices for Liberal Religious Values in Maryland

Support for HB 279

Prescription Drug Affordability Board – Upper Payment Limits

February 2, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

I am Betty McGarvie Crowley from Silver Spring representing the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD). We are an advocacy organization, with members in 23 UU congregations throughout the state. Since our founding in 2005, health care issues have been a priority, we are an active member of the Health Care for All Coalition and join them in supporting HB 279.

UULM-MD has been a supporter since it was made a public policy issue and were part of the coalition that passed Maryland's pioneer efforts to address the critical problem of overpriced prescription medications. The costs of life saving medications have caused individuals to not take them or ration them. These costs have caused many families to suffer serious financial consequences as major quality of life issues. We are pleased to see the progress made thus far and believe this legislation will enhance and expedite progress in this area.

HB 279 clarifies the intent of the 2019 legislation that established the Prescription Drug Affordability Board and will advance its implementation.

We urge a favorable report of HB 279.

Thank you, Delegate Bonnie Cullison for introducing this legislation, Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, and the Committee who have been leaders in supporting HB 279.