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March 21, 2023

To: The Honorable Joseline Peña Melnyk, Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General

Re: House Bill 279/Senate Bill 0202 (Prescription Drug Affordability Board – Upper Payment Limits): **Support**

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/SB0202, 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. Each version of the bill passed in its respective chamber with sizeable majorities and without amendments.

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 sponsors for this bill reinstating the statutory provisions and asks the Crossover Committee to issue a favorable report.

cc: Senator Brian Feldman  
Delegate Bonnie Cullison