

Subject: Support for HB456

From: Melissa Riccobono

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To: Members of the House Health Government Operations Committee

My name is Melissa Riccobono. Please support HB456 so the blind, print disabled, and elderly throughout the state can have the same access to prescription name, reordering information, warnings, and all other label information as the sighted have.

My husband and I are blind parents. We have two blind children and one sighted child. My children are sixteen, twelve, and ten. We need accessible information for ourselves and our children, and as our blind children get older, they should also be entitled to prescription information so they can begin to handle their own health care.

I take two medications which feel almost exactly the same, but are very different. One is an antidepressant, and the other is an antibiotic. I need to take the antibiotic twice a day with food, and the antidepressant before bed. Because I have access to the Script Talk system, I can easily tell these medications apart and make sure I take them both as prescribed. Also, I found out by listening to the medication warnings on my antibiotic that I should not take it with Zinc. This is something the doctor never told me, and since I do take Zinc as a supplement each day I was able to change when I take the Zinc so as to avoid a possible bad side effect or reaction.

Information is included on prescription labels for a reason. The technology exists which makes it possible to give people with various print disabilities access to this vital information in an alternative way. Please give a favorable vote for HB456 so all Marylanders can have access to prescription information.