

I am here today to speak in support of Senate Bill 349. As a two-time retiree from the state of Maryland I first retired from the Maryland State Police after over twenty-seven years of service. Part of my time with the Maryland State Police was spent here in Annapolis as the Sergeant at Arms for the Maryland House of Delegates. Following my retirement from the Maryland State Police I served with the Department of Corrections as both an Assistant Warden and Warden for nearly fourteen years before retiring.

At issue is a change to the benefits for Maryland state retirees who receive partially state-funded prescription drug coverage. I am currently 66 years old and would be among those who will lose our state subsidized prescription coverage effective December 31, 2024 and be forced to enroll in Medicare Part D.

Senate Bill 349 addresses prescription coverage but what is to prevent retirees from losing our health care coverage next? For the legislature it comes down to the cost. I know that House Bill 728 and Senate Bill 705 would provide health care to both Medicare and non Medicare eligible non citizens. That would come at a cost to the state of over 200 million dollars. I am asking you to put Maryland state retirees before non citizens. I am asking you to live up to the commitment that was made to Maryland state retirees and vote in support of Senate Bill 349.

Sincerely,

Retired Sergeant Richard J. Graham

And Retired Warden at Western Correctional Institute