

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Re: **SB 349** MD State Retirees Prescription RX Coverage

As a disabled State of Maryland Retiree senior citizen, I urge you to reinstate the prescription drug coverage that was part of the retirement package that I choose when I retired, I had to leave the workplace on a disability in 1999 as my disease had become intolerable. The retirement package that I opted for was for a lower monthly pension amount, but it would keep all the health benefits that I had at the time for the remainder of my life. I retired well before 2011 when the RX coverage bill went through and if I knew this could possibly happen, I would have chosen a different plan retirement package. This employment benefit was promised to me when I was hired and again when I retired; I earned it, agreed on it and my husband and I have planned our lives accordingly. The Silver Script Medicare wrap-around Insurance picks up the majority of the drug costs and without this promised coverage, I along with many, many of Maryland's elderly, disabled retirees will be forced to discontinue our much needed medicine. This is a totally unethical disaster if it is allowed..

I have Multiple Sclerosis that is challenging mentally and physically progression keeps me from working at all to help offset this. To renege on this benefit because "we simply cannot afford it" and "it would be a threat to the state's AAA bond rating" is an exaggeration of facts and simply ludicrous. Funding for this benefit should have stayed in the fund that was created for it.

How can HR lie to retirees when they need this benefit the most and then quietly have it eliminated at a future date. The previous attempt with SB946 that would be overly expensive for me and ultimately does NOT equal the original compensation package. Example: My Medicare Part D with a State Subsidy for the year 2023 "out-of-Pocket costs" were \$282.92 and the "Total drug costs" of \$66,791.10

My age, my disease, and my limited income make this a health altering problem to myself and plenty of others. Without the State subsidy, none of the regular Medicare part D plans adequately replace it, so I for one, will not be able to continue my medicines PLEASE, PLEASE GIVE US BACK WHAT WE DESERVE. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT-HELP-BLESSINGS-AND **VOTE YES** on **SB349** AND **pass it through!**

Respectfully,
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