



Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

AARP Maryland

*Baltimore Jewish
Council*

Catholic Charities

*Central Maryland
Ecumenical Council*

Church of the Brethren

*Episcopal Diocese of
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities
Commission of
Montgomery County*

*Jewish Community
Relations Council of
Greater Washington*

*Lutheran Office on
Public Policy in
Maryland*

*Maryland Association of
Area Agencies on Aging*

*Maryland Catholic
Conference*

*Mental Health
Association of Maryland*

Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan

*National Association of
Social Workers,
Maryland Chapter*

Presbytery of Baltimore

*The Coordinating
Center*

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Testimony in Support of SB349 State Prescription Drug Benefits – Retirees Senate Budget and Taxation Committee FAVORABLE February 28, 2024

Good afternoon, Senator Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that supports policies that meet the housing, health, and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

SB 349 authorizes State of Maryland retirees who began State service before July 1, 2011, should be eligible for prescription drug benefits in the Maryland State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program.

Retirees feel like the state has backed down on a benefit and it's disappointing because the drug benefit does not align with the benefit package many state employees thought they would be getting during retirement.

We believe the States should provide retired state and local employees and spouses with opportunities and options for adequate health insurance coverage especially prescription drugs.

We also believe that the State should provide Medicare-eligible retirees with benefits that supplement Medicare and for these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB 349.