

February 27, 2024

Senate Bill 349 and House Bill 670

I am a certified registered nurse practitioner who worked over 30 years for the state of MD and I am writing to request support of the house bills to reinstate our prescription drug plan. If I would have worked in the private sector I would have made three times the amount of yearly salary that I had made working for the state of Maryland. I had chosen to stay with the state because I felt as if the benefits provided at retirement offset the difference in salary. If I would have known these benefits were not going to be there after putting in my 30 plus years I would have worked in the private sector and could have lived off of 1/3 of my salary and saved 23rds toward my retirement.

Not only now do I have to pay for Medicare prescription coverage that is not as comprehensive as what I was covered with under the Maryland prescription drug coverage plan but I also must continue to carry and pay for the Maryland plan for my dependents under the age of Medicare eligibility which includes my wife and two daughters. One daughter being just 18 years of age.

Maryland finds funding to cover noncitizens of this country, provides medical and pharmacy to many who are not even attempting to contribute to society, yet denies those who worked for 30 plus years for the benefits. I recently was speaking to a young man 18 years of age who was receiving medical assistance and had found him employment and he advised me that "work was not for him." Maryland is sending the wrong message and eventually the number working to support this system will be less than the number drawing from it. I do not believe this is the message that this state should be sending and encouraging.

I am asking that you support reinstating what I earned. This is not a "handout" as I put in over 30 years of service to receive these benefits.

Michael Bridgett

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