

## TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 349

By Marilyn Miller, President Maryland Classified Employees  
Association

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Favorable

Good afternoon Mr. Chair and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. My name is Marilyn Miller, President, Maryland Classified Employees Association, AFT Local 1935. MCEA represents approximately 1,100 retirees. I am here to testify for a favorable report for Senate Bill 349, the bill that will restore our prescription benefits that were promised to us when we decided to join the State of Maryland workforce. For most of us, that was the deciding factor in working 30+ years to secure those benefits in our older years.

If this bill is not passed, most of our retirees are over the age of 80 and do not understand the MEDICARE RX plans available. I am a retiree who would be moved to the proposed plan by the State of Maryland. The MEDICARE RX plan does not cover 3 of my six medications of which one of my medications is \$6,076.79 per month. You ask why? This is due to my having a gall bladder issue in 2015 that caused my pancreas and liver to become infected. Therefore, I cannot take any medications that have the side effect of pancreatitis. This limits what medications I can be prescribed.

It should be noted that there are so many plans for MEDICARE RX that it is very confusing to say the least. Would you want this for

your elderly relatives who worked for the State for more than 30 years? I know I would not. I would want to protect what they were promised.

Please vote FOR this bill to show the State Retirees that their blood, sweat and tears for the years they were loyal to the State of Maryland have not been thrown out like an old newspaper.

Thank you for your time. Have a good day

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