



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0526
HEALTH INSURANCE – PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS – SPECIALTY DRUGS
DISPENSED BY A PHYSICIAN**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Lam

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0526 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The purchase of prescription drugs in Maryland is a confusing and expensive process. Some insurance companies require their members to use specific pharmacies to purchase drugs because their Pharmacy Benefit Managers make more money from those pharmacies. The consumer does not have the opportunity to look around for the best price and usually winds up paying more.

This bill, if enacted, prohibits Pharmacy Benefits Managers from requiring a consumer to use a specific pharmacy for a specialty drug if the drug is dispensed by a physician and used in the treatment of chronic, rare, complex or life-threatening conditions. It also prohibits Pharmacy Benefits Managers from reimbursing a pharmacy or pharmacist in an amount less than the amount the Pharmacy Benefits Manager reimburses itself or an affiliate for providing the same product or service.

Our members are grateful for the support of Marylanders with severe health problems and life-threatening conditions.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.