

**JUSTIN READY**  
*Legislative District 5*  
Carroll County

—  
**MINORITY WHIP**  
—  
Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 315  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3683 · 301-858-3683  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3683  
Justin.Ready@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 28, 2024

**Senator Justin Ready**  
**SB 626 Pharmacy Benefits Managers - Definition of Purchaser and Alteration  
of Application of Law**

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Chair Beidle, Vice Klausmeier and members of the Finance Committee:

Senate Bill 626 passed the House last year but didn't have time to make it through the Senate. It would repeal the definitions of "carrier" and "ERISA" and alters the definition of "purchaser" to include and insurer, nonprofit health service plan, or health maintenance organization (HMO) for purposes of State law governing Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBMs). As a result, the bill applies provisions of law governing PBMs to all entities providing prescription drug coverage or benefits in the State, including programs subject to the Federal Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). This bill takes effect on January 25, 2024.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on Senate Bill 626.