

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Clarence Lam
Maryland State Senate
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 986 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lam,

AIDS Healthcare Foundation supports your legislation, Senate Bill 986, which would prohibit drug companies from restricting the use of contract pharmacies in their shameful effort to undermine the purposes of the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program. AIDS Healthcare Foundation is proud to serve over 1,000 Marylanders at its Ryan White HIV clinics in Baltimore and Temple Hills. AHF operates 70 Ryan White Clinics in 16 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, caring for approximately 100,000 people, over half of which are living with HIV. We turn no one away in our mission to provide cutting edge medicine regardless of the ability to pay. Our clinics cannot keep that promise if the 340B program is restricted.

The savings from 340B enable our comprehensive care model – from testing and linking patients to medical care to ensuring they remain in care and adherent to a tailored medication regimen – that no other payor source provides for people living with HIV. Neither the commercial nor public sector employs case managers and specialty pharmacists that monitor patients all along the HIV care continuum. Due to 340B savings, Ryan White patients achieve viral suppression rates at almost 90%, compared to the national average just north of 50%. Our superior health outcomes would not be possible without 340B.

340B savings function as a health and wellness multiplier for the HIV response in Maryland. Contract pharmacy restrictions inhibit that response. Drug companies want geographic strictures placed on where Marylanders fill their prescription medications. Such limitations will reduce the number of 340B eligible prescriptions, benefiting drug company balance sheets at the expense of patient health. 340B is working as intended. The program serves patients who depend on lifesaving services from nonprofit safety net healthcare providers. The drug industry is working nonstop to strangle 340B. AHF thanks you for introducing Senate Bill 986. We look forward to seeing it signed into law. Let us know how we can provide support. I can be reached at (202) 774-4854 and at john.hassell@ahf.org.

Sincerely,



John D. Hassell
National Director of Advocacy