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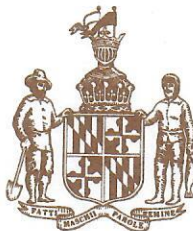
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MINORITY LEADER
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Finance Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

Rules Committee
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Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics

Legislative Policy Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Honorable Pamela Beidle
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
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RE: Senate Bill 595 Health Benefit Plans- Calculation of Cost Sharing Contribution – Requirements and Prohibitions

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 595 ensures that copay assistance, a vital source of financial assistance for Maryland patients to afford medication, will count towards their deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums.

To offset high out-of-pocket costs, patients often apply for and receive copay assistance. Most of the copay assistance is provided by drug manufacturers to patients taking one of their products and in some cases the assistance comes from non-profits or charities.

In Senate Bill 595, when calculating an individual's cost sharing requirement, insurance carriers and pharmacy benefit managers must include amounts paid by the individual or by another person on behalf of the individual.

There are nineteen other states that have passed similar legislation, including our neighboring states of Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware and the District of Columbia.

I ask for a favorable vote on Senate Bill 595.