



February 29, 2024

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

NAMI Maryland and our 11 local affiliates across the state represent a network of more than 58,000 families, individuals, community-based organizations, and service providers. NAMI Maryland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to providing education, support, and advocacy for people living with mental illnesses, their families, and the wider community.

Marylanders are overpaying for prescription medications due to unregulated drug pricing systems such as the Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) Rebate system. HB1270 would require PBMs to pass through at least 85% of their negotiated rebate savings to the consumer.

Psychiatric medications are an important part of treatment for many people who live with a mental illness. They can improve symptoms and help promote recovery and wellness, but the price for medication can often be an obstacle.

PBMs have long been taking advantage of our drug pricing system and Marylanders are suffering because of it. PBMs have generally skirted regulations, though they play a major role in driving up out-of-pocket costs.

NAMI MD believes that policies should focus on passing along drug discounts to patients, directly lowering out of pocket costs. Medication is a powerful tool in helping people with mental illness lead more fulfilling lives. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

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