



February 28, 2024

Maryland General Assembly  
House Health and Government Operations Committee

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) in support of House Bill (HB) 1270, requiring 85% of prescription drug rebates to be passed on to consumers, including people with diabetes.

The increasing cost of prescription drugs has created an outsized burden on the diabetes community. For people with diabetes—many of whom rely on not just insulin, but also many other expensive medications to manage their condition and comorbidities—this financial barrier can mean the difference between life and death. On average, people with diagnosed diabetes have medical expenditures 2.6 times higher than expected for those without diabetes.

We know from studies, that achieving glycemic control and managing cardiovascular risk factors have conclusively been shown to reduce diabetes complications, deaths, and associated costs for hospitalizations and treatments. Therefore, it is imperative that every effort be made to make access to medications and health care affordable, and ideally 100% of the rebates would be passed on. HB 1270 will bring critical relief for patients with diabetes, because improving affordability of necessary medications will improve adherence to the treatment plan their providers have prescribed.

We also urge that measures be put in place to ensure the list prices of prescription drugs do not escalate as the rebates are passed on to the patient, as some people will still be faced with paying list price without the benefit of a rebate pass through.

The American Diabetes Association urges your support for HB 1270. Thank you very much for your consideration. If you have any questions, I am available at [mbillger@diabetes.org](mailto:mbillger@diabetes.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monica Billger'.

Monica Billger  
State Government Affairs Director  
American Diabetes Association