



February 28, 2024
House Health & Government Operations Committee
Re: HB1270

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of thousands of Marylanders living with chronic conditions, we encourage you to pass HB1270, a bill that would lower out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for patients, and we ask that you **support** this essential piece of legislation when it is called up for a vote.

Our group of patient advocates stands united in support of HB1270 because the issue of prescription affordability directly impacts our everyday lives. Decisions about our treatment and choices we are forced to make for our families often hinge on the cost of our lifesaving and life-sustaining medications, putting our quality of life and both short- and long-term health outcomes at risk.

Across the board, negotiated rebate savings for branded drugs average 48%¹ meaning people living with chronic conditions are paying nearly twice the price for their lifesaving and life-sustaining medications than their insurance company pays for the same drug. This, despite the fact that these consumers have paid a premium for access to the insurance plan.

Passing negotiated rebate savings to patients alleviates some of the heavy financial burden that comes with a chronic condition, and that is our goal. HB1270 will grant immediate relief for patients across all branded drugs and chronic conditions, and your support makes a tremendous difference to our community's most vulnerable individuals.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of HB1270. Please pass this essential bill and vote "yes" to prioritize patients over profits, thereby improving the lives of Marylanders.

Sincerely,

