

Date of Hearing 2/6/2025

FR: Susan Allen

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**Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits
(Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Now Act)
TESTIMONY ON SB#357- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Susan Allen

OPENING: My name is Susan Allen. I am a resident of 30A Anne Arundel County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#357, (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Now Act)

I am the Policy Lead of the Maryland Poor People's Campaign (MD PPC), as well as a member of Anne Arundel Connecting Together, the Episcopal Policy Network, and Jews United for Justice. I connect with many organizations who care about poor, low-wealth, disabled and working-class Marylanders.

I want to say upfront that my husband and I are struggling with prescription drug insurance coverage and are now paying 30% of prescription costs under Medicare Part D. The state threw us off the Retired State Employees prescription drug plan (SilverScript) and we now are forced into the open market for supplemental prescription drug plans.

If ordinary middle-class Marylanders like my husband and I are struggling, we can only imagine what the most vulnerable citizens face as they struggle to pay for expensive, life-sustaining prescriptions.

Overall, this bill will decrease drug costs on prescriptions that Marylanders desperately need- especially families with children, working adults, older citizens, and people with disabilities.

As a member of the MD PPC that bases its actions on poverty data, we know that this Board should have been implemented in 2019 so that Marylanders would have been paying lower costs for more than 5 years.

My moral tradition emphasizes the importance of **affordable health care** to support the common good and **PREVENT POVERTY AND BANKRUPTCY**. Poor and working Marylanders have testified about the large health care gap between vulnerable people and people with health care funded by employers. Most Americans use government-supported prescription drug payments, low- and moderate-income people of every ethnicity need them more.

To sum up, I support SB#357 **Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Act** because **AFFORDABLE** costs will protect many vulnerable Marylanders from harm and suffering.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#357

Susan Allen