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MINORITY LEADER

Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Rules Committee

Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics

Legislative Policy Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Honorable Pamela Beidle
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 773 – Health Benefit Plans – Calculation of Cost Sharing Contribution - Requirements

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 773 ensures that copay assistance, a vital source of financial assistance for Maryland patients to afford medication, will count toward their deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums. 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. Senate Bill 773 separates health plan design from the availability of patient assistance. This prevents other current, and future, health plan designs that are used to collect an individuals' copay assistance, but not count it towards their deductible and out-of-pocket costs.

This practice is occurring successfully in twenty-one other states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

I ask for a favorable vote for SB773