

February 6, 2025

Testimony on Senate Bill 357
Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits
(Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Now Act)
Senate Finance Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of nonprofit organizations and institutions of all sizes serving Marylanders and communities across the entire state. Taken together nonprofits account for 13% of all private employment in Maryland and as employers strive to provide adequate health insurance coverage to their employees.

We urge you support Senate Bill 357, that would grant Maryland's Prescription Drug Affordability Board the expanded authority to set statewide upper payment limits to make high-cost drugs more affordable for *all* Marylanders. Skyrocketing drug costs are contributing to all of our health insurance premiums, making quality coverage less affordable for everyone. Nonprofits suffered along with the rest of the private sector throughout the pandemic, with disruption of operations, revenue losses, and workforce shortages. Many have also experienced declines in contributions in recent years and now face uncertain government funding in the future.

The Prescription Drug Affordability Board has made progress over the last year, particularly the approval of its Upper Payment Limit Action Plan to make prescription drugs more affordable for state and local governments. However, the fact remains that more must be done to directly help Marylanders and Maryland employers struggling to afford or provide adequate prescription coverage.

Polling shows as many as 45% of Marylanders report struggling to afford the medicines they need, with one third of Marylanders skipping a dose, rationing medication, or leaving a prescription unfilled due to cost. Meanwhile, the prescription drug industry spends far more on self-enrichment and advertising than they do on research and development, regularly prioritizing profits over patients. With federal action on this issue uncertain under the new administration, it is critical that Maryland continues to move forward on our prescription drug affordability efforts.

We thank you for your consideration of this issue and strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 357.