



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 303 PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGER-DEFINITION OF PURCHASER & ALT.LAW FEBRUARY 5, 2025

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 26

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, members of the Committee, I ask you to join me in **opposition to SB 303**, a piece of legislation that will hamper our ability to secure the best healthcare for our members. Regulations from the state will only make a highly federally regulated process more difficult to serve our 13,000 active members and thousands of retired members.

The IBEW and its healthcare funds jurisdictional area consists of the entire District of Columbia, 44 counties in Virginia and the 5 southern counties in Maryland. The addition of SB 303 will make it difficult, if not impossible to serve our members with the same quality as we do currently. Please remember that our healthcare and prescription benefits are negotiated and administered jointly by Management and Labor at no cost to the state. 2025 is a budget minded year in Annapolis, I would think legislators would promote private healthcare management, instead of regulating and possibly causing more citizens to become healthcare wards of the state.

Our multi-employer administered healthcare funds provide benefits for many young families and senior citizens, healthy and those in need of immediate care. This is accomplished thru well-established negotiations, consultants, benefit managers and more. This excellent care can be ruined by stripping away any ERISA protections. I ask the committee to keep the ERISA Preemption in tack, support multi-employer administered funds and **oppose SB 303**.

As a lifelong Marylander and one of some 18,000 IBEW members that reside in our great state, I ask you to consider the implications of SB 303. Allow us, Labor and Management, to oversee and supervise the collectively bargained healthcare funds that we have successfully administered for decades. Please avoid any legislative action that would negatively impact the ability of our healthcare plan to serve our members best and give an **unfavorable vote to SB 303**. Thank you.

