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Testimony of the Cybersecurity Association

Before the Maryland General Assembly House Committee on Health and Government Operations

Re: Opposition to House Bill 321

January 23, 2025

Chair Pena-Melnyck and Members of the Committee:

The Cybersecurity Association ("CA") strongly opposes House Bill 321.

House Bill 321 seeks to alter the definition of "purchaser" in State insurance law governing pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) to exclude certain nonprofit health maintenance organizations. This change would effectively remove key federal protections provided under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), leading to increased healthcare costs for our members and their employees.

ERISA-based plans offer uniform regulations and benefits that have enabled employers to provide affordable healthcare and prescription drugs to their employees. By undermining these protections, HB 321 would result in higher co-pays, co-insurance, and prescription drug prices for employees. Additionally, the policy changes introduced by this bill could escalate healthcare costs significantly over the next decade.

The Cybersecurity Association (CA) represents businesses and professionals committed to fostering a secure digital environment. Our members rely on accessible and affordable healthcare benefits to attract and retain top talent. Increasing healthcare costs through legislation like HB 321 would disproportionately burden small businesses and stifle growth in the cybersecurity sector.

For these reasons, the Cybersecurity Association respectfully urges the Committee to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 321. We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns and are happy to provide further information or answer any questions the Committee may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tasha Cornish
Executive Director
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