



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1310
Prescription Drug Repository Program – Out-of-State Pharmacies
By Vincent DeMarco, President of Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative
Before the House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 6, 2025

Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee;

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 1310, which would allow our state to expand our existing Prescription Drug Repository Program to include out-of-state pharmacies, greatly expanding the pool of available medications available for patients that participate in this program. I am writing today in support of this legislation on behalf of our individual organization, Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative, Inc, as we have not reviewed the bill with the full Maryland Health Care for All! Coalition.

As you know, the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs is a critical issue that we face as a state and a nation. While we are all hurt by these exorbitant costs, as these prices burden taxpayers and drive-up insurance premiums, patients who struggle to afford these lifesaving medications face the most suffering. We know from polling that 45% of Marylanders report difficulty affording their prescription drugs, with one-third of respondents indicating they have skipped a dose, rationed medication, or left a prescription unfilled due to cost.¹

The Prescription Drug Repository Program is a common-sense way to get unused medication safely and affordably into the hands of patients who need it. By expanding eligibility, we enable Maryland patients to utilize existing programs in a broader network, increasing the availability of medications, improving efficiency in medication delivery, and reducing prescription drug waste.

We thank Delegate Bhandari for introducing this important bill and the Committee for your work on this issue. We respectfully request a favorable report of HB 1310.

¹ <https://healthcareforall.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Statewide-MD-Poll-on-Prescription-Drug-Affordability-PDAB-091123.pdf>