

Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association Protecting the Future of Continuing Care Residents The Voice of Continuing Care Residents at Annapolis

 SUBJECT: Senate Bill 357 - Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority and Stakeholder Council Membership (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Now Act)
COMMITTEES: House Health and Government Operations Committee The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair
DATE: Thursday, March 27, 2025

POSITION: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA) is a not-for- profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has over 20,000 older adults living in 38 licensed CCRCs. The principal purpose of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA supports efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, financial security, and preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide.

On behalf of the Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association, we support Senate Bill 357. *This bill repeals existing reporting requirements for the Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) regarding upper payment limits (UPLs). Instead, PDAB must determine whether it is in the best interest of the State to set UPLs for all purchases and payor reimbursements of prescription drug products in the State, as specified. If PDAB makes this determination, it must establish a specified process and set UPLs in accordance with the process.*

CCRCs are complexes that provide housing and health services for seniors residing in independent living, assisted living (including memory care) or skilled nursing facilities. Many, if not most, CCRC residents have a Type C or "Fee-For-Service" contract, under which they pay a monthly charge while in the independent living part of the CCRC complex which will escalate significantly when their declining health requires that they move into the assisted living or skilled nursing areas.

To the extent that Senate Bill 357 can lead to lower out of pocket costs for prescription drugs, this will be a very important outcome for our senior constituents, most of whom live on fixed incomes.

For these reasons we support Senate Bill 357 and ask for a favorable report.

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