



Testimony of Paul Schwartz

February 20, 2025

House Ways & Means Committee

HB 1276 – Credit for Long-Term Care

Premiums

My name is Paul Schwartz and I am Region Vice President for National NARFE's (the National Active & Retired Federal Employee's Association)

I have testified before this Committee and the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee on the need for Maryland to incentivize the purchase of long-term care insurance for close to a decade.

I emphasized the importance of tax incentives to encourage the purchase and retention of long-term care insurance to help delay the entrance into

nursing homes which account for such a large portion of Medicaid which, in turn, constitutes a major portion of Maryland's budget.

However, this time I want to focus on something else – the rising cost of healthcare

The cost of healthcare in America is simply unaffordable for many Americans including many Marylanders.

With the change in administration in Washington, we cannot rely on the federal government to address this ongoing threat to Marylanders.

There is even talk of repealing the Inflation Reduction Act and removing the \$35 cap on insulin for those on Medicare as well as Medicare's ability to negotiate pricing which had been sought for decades until it finally passed two years ago.

It is going to be up to you to help Marylanders afford their healthcare.

I recognize that Maryland is facing a budget deficit.

However, per Comptroller Brooke Lierman, the loss of revenue in our state can be attributed in large part to the decrease in population which can be attributed to a great degree to Marylanders retiring to more tax friendly states such as Delaware and Pennsylvania.

Anything that can incentivize Marylanders to remain in their homes so that they will continue to pay their taxes to Maryland and spend their money in Maryland contributes to addressing population decrease in addition to Maryland stepping up to help offset rising healthcare costs.

HB 1276 does both.