



Testimony of Paul Schwartz

January 30, 2025

House Ways & Means Committee

SB 327 – Long-Term Care Relief Act of 2025

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 longterm care insurance for close to a decade.

I emphasized the importance of tax incentives to encourage the purchase and retention of longterm 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 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, HB 327 directly affects such a small cadre of Marylanders – those 85 or older who were able to keep the longterm care insurance they had to have

purchased more than 20 or 25 years ago it cannot be a major drain on Maryland's budget. Most are not even still alive.

But it will send an important message that Maryland cares and is taking steps to address unfairness.