

Mr. Chairman, and honorable members of the Committee

I am John Turrall, a retired Maryland State Trooper. On behalf of myself and other retirees that are affected by the loss of coverage to our prescription drug plan.

I entered the Maryland State Police (MSP) when I was 22 years old, a recent veteran of the United States Coast Guard, an expecting wife, working a night job at a gasoline station and attempting to earn a college degree. The MSP was actively recruiting personnel to fill new openings at the future JFK highway, and I needed a job.

The years passed and my wife & I enjoyed raising three children, sometimes using the medical benefits provided by our employer – State of Maryland. There were child diseases and a few broken bones, but they grew, married and raised their own families. My wife and I are now in our eighties.

We have serious concerns over our Prescription Drug Plan that was promised to each of us when we entered the law enforcement field.

The Maryland State Police retirement system is not in any way connected with the U.S. Government retirement system. This means that a retired member of the Maryland State Police, hired before the 1990's, has never paid into the U.S. Social Security system to gain any benefits through Medicare Part D. Our members may have earned some minimal benefits through the military or working part time through private employers.

The issue of having a pre-existing medical condition when signing up for A new Rx has been cost prohibitive and can be financially.

devastating. Some medications currently being taken are not covered by the plan so the drug can only be obtained at an out-of-pocket cost.

Please understand that many of our retirees are living on a limited income. For many of us our retiree benefits are but a small fraction of the folks that retire today.

“To Protect the citizens of Maryland” was our motto. We answered the call for over twenty-five years, from domestic disturbances, assaults, to accidents, all for the citizens of Maryland. We sustained physical and mental stress on our bodies in adverse conditions. Now we ask for your hand and voice to help us secure our Prescription Drug Plan. Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Turrall

Sergeant (retired)

Maryland State Police Alumni Association