



Testimony for Senate Bill 987  
Corporate Income Tax - Addition Modification - Direct-to-Consumer Pharmaceutical  
Advertising  
Position: Favorable

To Chair Guzzone and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

My name is Ricarra Jones and I am the Political Director for 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Maryland/DC. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the nation, representing 10,000 members in our region in hospitals, long term care facilities, and federally qualified health centers. Our union supports SB 987 and urges the Committee to issue a **favorable** report.

Senate Bill 987 protects consumers from the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs while also generating revenue to help support the growing health care coverage demands of our state.

1199 SEIU strongly believes that Maryland should be doing everything that it can to help people keep their health coverage. When people delay care due to lack of health care coverage, our short staffed hospitals become overburdened due to serious complications from delayed care. In the coming years, hundreds of thousands of Marylanders are expected to lose their coverage due to new administrative burdens and budget cuts from HR 1 and Congress's termination of enhanced advance premium tax credits. SB 987 will invest in Maryland Medicaid and protect Marylanders' access to health coverage.

Under HR 1 there will be new work requirements and six month redeterminations for adults who receive Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act expansion. The vast majority of these adults would qualify for an exemption or already work, yet they are still at risk of losing their Medicaid coverage due to increased red tape. Delegate Ziegler's amendment would put \$5 million per year into funding Medicaid eligibility operations, which would help the State build and maintain the infrastructure to keep Marylanders from falling through the cracks and losing their Medicaid coverage. The Department of Legislative Services estimated that it would cost the state \$20 million to administer these new requirements in FY 2026, \$50 million in FY 2027, and \$10 million in subsequent fiscal years.

For too long, the pharmaceutical industry has claimed they need to keep their prices high for research and development while they have spent many times more on advertising and self-enriching activities. It is time that Maryland puts an end to taxpayer sponsorship of this practice and puts our patients first. We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 987

Sincerely,

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Political Director | 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East