



**Senate Bill 837 -
Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage and
Utilization Review - Drugs Reviewed by the Prescription Drug Affordability Board**

**UNFAVORABLE
Senate Finance Committee
March 4, 2026**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony for Senate Bill 837 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Coverage and Utilization Review – Drugs Reviewed by the Prescription Drug Affordability Board. The Maryland Managed Care Organization Association (MMCOA) represents all nine Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) that serve Medicaid recipients under Maryland’s HealthChoice program. Together, the MCOs finance and arrange care for nearly 1.3 million Marylanders.

Senate Bill 837 would significantly limit the use of utilization management tools for prescription drugs based solely on a drug having been reviewed by the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB). As drafted, the bill restricts these tools even when the PDAB just simply reviews drugs, but has made no affordability determination, without regard to clinical variation, appropriate use, or emerging utilization patterns. Prior authorization is a key tool MCOs use to ensure evidence-based prescribing, prevent inappropriate or unsafe use, and manage rapidly escalating pharmacy costs in the Medicaid program.

Maryland was the first state to establish a PDAB in response to growing concerns that prescription drugs are increasingly unaffordable. However, removing utilization management tools from a subset of branded drugs simply because a drug has been reviewed by the PDAB will not address persistent prescription drug affordability challenges. Over time, the State could be left with a growing number of high-cost branded drugs that are not subject to utilization management, which would be financially unsustainable for the Medicaid program.

For these reasons, MMCOA respectfully requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 837.

Please contact Joe Winn, Executive Director of MMCOA, with any questions regarding this testimony at jwinn@marylandmco.org.