



Senate Finance Committee

March 4, 2026

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

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC), with over 800 members, is the State’s largest association of technology companies. Our vision is to propel Maryland to be the country's number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology. MTC brings the State’s life sciences and technology communities into a single, united organization that empowers members to achieve their goals through advocacy, networking, and education. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 873.

Senate Bill 873 seeks to remove barriers such as prior authorization requirements and step therapy protocols for certain drugs that have undergone review by the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB). We thank the bill sponsors for introducing this legislation, which we understand is intended to make access to PDAB-reviewed medications easier and more predictable.

The bill’s prohibition on unnecessary prior authorization, step therapy (“fail-first”) requirements, and discriminatory formulary adjustments for drugs reviewed by the Board promotes predictability and transparency in coverage decisions. We are confident that these reforms will benefit Maryland patients by improving timely access to medically appropriate treatments, reducing administrative burdens on providers and patients, and aligning insurance practices with the PDAB’s affordability determinations.

The bill also sends a strong message to Maryland’s incredibly strong life sciences industry. Maryland’s life sciences ecosystem includes 2,700 companies and 54,000 workers. These innovative companies and workers develop therapies, cures, and treatments that millions of patients depend on. According to the 2024 annual rankings from *Business Facilities*, Maryland ranks as the third-best State in the country for life sciences, behind only Massachusetts and California. Assets such as proximity to the National Institutes of Health (“NIH”) and other federal Research and Development funding agencies, strong academic and medical institutions, and a highly skilled workforce, all combine to make Maryland a competitive state for life sciences. These are some of the reasons Governor Moore has rightly highlighted life sciences as one of the three “lighthouse industries of the future” and stated that his Administration wants Maryland to be the capital of biotech.

By removing patient access barriers for medications that have been through the PDAB’s affordability review process, the legislature is sending a positive signal to the hundreds of innovative companies in Maryland researching, testing, developing, and manufacturing these critical medications.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 873.

**For more information call:**

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