



Maryland Senate  
Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

March 4, 2026

Re: Support for SB 837

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the Infusion Access Foundation, we write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 837 and its critical role in protecting patient access to medically necessary treatments in Maryland. We appreciate the Committee's ongoing commitment to advancing policies that improve healthcare affordability and access for Marylanders, and we respectfully urge you to support SB 837.

The Infusion Access Foundation is a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to protecting access to infusions and injections. We support patients across all disease states and advocate for expanding access to the therapies that help patients live their best, healthiest lives. In conjunction with our grassroots advocacy work, we advocate for individual patients who face significant barriers to care.

Maryland patients deserve timely access to the medications their healthcare providers prescribe. Yet too often, insurance-imposed barriers such as prior authorization, step therapy ("fail-first" requirements), and mid-year formulary changes delay or disrupt care. These non-clinical, cost-containment strategies can result in treatment delays, disease progression, increased out-of-pocket costs, and interruptions to stable treatment plans, particularly for patients managing complex or chronic conditions who rely on consistent access to infusion and specialty therapies.

SB 837 puts patients first by ensuring that once a prescription drug has been reviewed by the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) and is (1) not found to present an affordability challenge, (2) the subject of a PDAB policy recommendation, or (3) has an upper payment limit (UPL) established by the PDAB, health plans may not impose additional utilization management barriers. Specifically, insurers may not require



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prior authorization, mandate step therapy protocols, or shift medications to higher cost-sharing tiers or remove them from formularies in ways that restrict access.

These protections are a necessary complement to the work of the PDAB. If a drug has already undergone affordability review or is subject to an upper payment limit, allowing insurers to layer on additional barriers undermines the intent of the Board's oversight and places unnecessary burdens on patients and providers. SB 837 helps ensure continuity of care, reduces avoidable delays, and respects the clinical judgment of healthcare providers and the individualized needs of patients.

For patients who depend on infusion therapies and other complex treatments, even short disruptions in access can have serious health consequences. SB 837 provides important safeguards to prevent non-clinical coverage restrictions from interfering with medically appropriate care.

We respectfully urge the Senate Finance Committee to support SB 837 and stand with Maryland patients and families by removing harmful insurance barriers to prescribed medications.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the impact of SB 837 on patients requiring infusion and specialty therapies, we would welcome the opportunity to speak further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Alicia B". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alicia Barron, LGSW  
Executive Director  
Infusion Access Foundation