



**MARYLAND**  
Prescription Drug Affordability Board

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Bowie, MD 20715  
[pdab.maryland.gov](http://pdab.maryland.gov)

March 4, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

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

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) respectfully submits this letter of opposition for Senate Bill (SB) 837 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage and Utilization Review - Drugs Reviewed by the Prescription Drug Affordability Board. SB 837 imposes certain restrictions on MCOs, insurers, HMOs and others based solely on whether the PDAB undertakes a cost review study of a drug regardless of the outcome of the study.

Safeguards to patients are important. But sound policy action must be informed by sufficient facts.

The Board’s discretionary decision to conduct a Cost Review Study of a drug does not, in and of itself, have any connection to or provide a basis for imposing limitations on utilization management. In conducting the study, the Board seeks to understand whether use of a prescription drug has created an affordability challenge, and then whether policy action, such as setting an upper payment limit, is warranted. The study informs the policy action.

This bill imposes limitations on utilization management and other restrictions based solely on the selection of a drug for study and the action of undertaking that study—regardless of the outcome of the study and any affordability challenge determination. That approach undermines the Board’s processes, devalues the study and may pose significant unintended collateral consequences.

We ask that you oppose Senate Bill 837. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Christina Shaklee, Health Policy Analyst Advanced at [christina.shaklee1@maryland.gov](mailto:christina.shaklee1@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew York".

Andrew York, Pharm.D., J.D.  
Executive Director  
Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board