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House Health Committee

March 13, 2026

House Bill 1440 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Coverage and Utilization Review – Drugs Reviewed by the Prescription Drug Affordability Board*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 1440, which prohibits an insurance carrier from limiting, restricting, or excluding coverage of a prescription drug on the carrier’s formulary if the prescription drug has been reviewed by the Prescription Drug Affordability Board and the Board has taken certain actions, such as setting an upper payment limit for the drug.

Carriers often argue that utilization review standards are necessary to control costs. However, for prescription drugs reviewed by the Board, the Board’s oversight already provides a mechanism to control cost and ensure appropriate use. Therefore, additional utilization review may be redundant, creating an administrative burden without improving patient safety or outcomes. Eliminating these standards could streamline access to medications, reduce therapy delays, and allow providers to focus on clinical decision-making rather than on bureaucratic compliance.

MedChi urges a favorable vote on House Bill 1440.

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