

HB1440\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
03/13/2026  
Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

**TESTIMONY ON HB#1440 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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

**TO:** Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health Committee  
**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1440, Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage and Utilization Review - Drugs Reviewed by the Prescription Drug Affordability Board**

The **Prescription Drug Affordability Board** is an independent unit of state government tasked with protecting Marylanders and the Maryland health care system from the high costs of prescription drug products. Once a review of a drug is completed by this board it should then be made available to residents of Maryland. Barriers to obtaining reviewed drugs will be removed by this bill.

The purpose of this bill is prohibiting a managed care organization and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations from requiring a prior authorization or step therapy or fail-first protocol under certain circumstances for prescription drugs that have been reviewed by the Prescription Drug Affordability Board; etc.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1440.**