

## Written Testimony in Support of HB 1375

Submitted by:

Andrzej Marciniak, President

Village of Port Tobacco

On Behalf of the Village Commissioners

HB 1375 – Health Insurance: Lyme Disease and Related Tick-Borne Illnesses – Long-Term Antibiotic Treatment

Maryland House Health & Government Operations Committee

Hearing: March 13, 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrzej Marciniak, President of the Village of Port Tobacco, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Village Commissioners in strong support of HB 1375.

HB 1375 is a critically important bill for Maryland residents, as it ensures that insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and HMOs provide coverage for the full length of medically necessary long-term antibiotic treatment for Lyme disease and related tick-borne illnesses. The bill also prevents insurers from imposing arbitrary limits or prematurely denying coverage for such treatment.

This issue is particularly relevant to Port Tobacco, where—like much of Maryland—persistent tick presence is a well-known environmental reality. Our Village’s wooded landscape, historic sites, and outdoor recreational areas attract both residents and visitors, creating ongoing potential exposure to ticks and tick-borne disease. Every year, individuals in our community face the risk of infection and the possibility of needing sustained medical intervention. HB 1375 directly addresses this need by ensuring that when long-term antibiotic therapy is required, coverage will be consistent, reliable, and based on clinical judgment rather than insurance limitations.

For patients with Lyme disease or co-infections—conditions that can lead to severe, persistent, and sometimes debilitating symptoms—timely and uninterrupted access to treatment is essential. Allowing insurance carriers to cut short a medically indicated regimen not only jeopardizes patient recovery but can also lead to far more costly complications down the line.

For these reasons, and on behalf of the Village Commissioners, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable recommendation for HB 1375 and advance this bill through the chamber.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Andrzej Marciniak

President, Village of Port Tobacco

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