



Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

AARP Maryland

*Baltimore Jewish
Council*

*Catholic Charities of
Baltimore*

*Central Maryland
Ecumenical Council*

Church of the Brethren

*Episcopal Diocese of
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities
Commission of
Montgomery County*

*Lutheran Office on
Public Policy in
Maryland*

*Maryland Association of
Area Agencies on Aging*

*Maryland Catholic
Conference*

*Mental Health
Association of Maryland*

Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan

*National Association of
Social Workers,
Maryland Chapter*

Presbytery of Baltimore

*The Coordinating
Center*

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The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that support policies that meet the housing, health, and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN supports HB 88. This bill authorizes insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to join bulk purchasing pools for prescription drugs, expanding opportunities to reduce drug costs.

Prescription drugs can play an important role in supporting the health of older adults, yet rising drug prices continue to create challenges for many Marylanders working to manage ongoing health needs. Too many older adults report skipping doses, delaying refills, or abandoning prescriptions because they cannot afford them.

By permitting a broader range of private-sector health coverage entities to participate in bulk purchasing pools, HB 88 strengthens Maryland's ability to pursue cost-saving strategies that until now have been largely limited to the public sector. In addition, HB 88 does not prescribe one rigid model for these purchasing pools. It allows flexibility for partnerships to form and negotiate more effectively.

For Maryland's older adults, particularly those on fixed incomes or managing multiple chronic conditions, the ability of insurers and health plans to secure lower prescription drug prices is not simply a matter of cost savings. It is a matter of health equity, access, and dignity. HB 88 provides a tool to help ensure that older Marylanders can obtain the medications they need to remain healthy, engaged, and independent in their communities.

For these reasons MSCAN urges a favorable report.