



MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE

Prescription Drug Affordability Initiative

WHEREAS, to protect our lives and our well-being, every family in Maryland requires access to affordable prescription drugs;

WHEREAS, skyrocketing costs are making some medicines virtually inaccessible to our families and neighbors;

WHEREAS, overall drug prices increased almost 9% in 2016 while general inflation increased just over 2% in the same period, and since 2013 drug prices have risen an average of 10% annually but inflation has only increased 1.2% on average since 2013;

WHEREAS, prescription drug spending accounted for over 22% of each health insurance premium dollar in 2014, and nearly a quarter of people in their deductible period never picked up their prescriptions from the pharmacy, presumably because of the cost;

WHEREAS, there are pharmacy benefit managers who reportedly ban pharmacists from discussing lower-priced drug choices with their patients;

WHEREAS, Maryland should continue to lead the Nation in addressing the affordability of prescription drugs, building on the State's landmark 2017 legislation banning price gouging by manufacturers of generic and off-patent drugs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned organization supports:

- Allowing pharmacists to provide information to consumers about lower cost drug options;
- Requiring prescription drug corporations to provide notice of new, expensive drugs, or large price increases of older drugs, as well as public justification for those pricing decisions;
- Making expensive drugs more affordable by creating a new Prescription Drug Cost Review Commission to establish payment rates for expensive drugs that create significant affordability problems for Marylanders, building upon Maryland's successful tradition of health care cost scrutiny.

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ (o) _____ (c) Email: _____

Representative (Print Name): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____