

# THE TRUE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

## Why Maryland needs a Prescription Drug Affordability Board

### PATIENTS



More and more Marylanders are forced to choose between prescription drugs and other necessities, like rent and groceries, and others are forced to go without their medications.



Larry, who suffers from Parkinson's disease. Even with insurance he is unable to afford the best course of treatment, which would cost him over **\$6,000 per month**.

They are people like:



Peggy, who at 72, works **five nights a week** to be able to afford her prescription drugs.



the **45 million Americans** who did not fill a prescription in 2016 **due to cost**. Others are forced to skip or reduce dosage, resulting in less effective treatment, illness, and even death.

### PREMIUMS



The rising costs of prescription drugs are a major contributor to overall healthcare expenditures and result in higher premiums.

"In 2017 drug cost, from both the medical and pharmacy benefit, was the single largest contributor to overall spending at CareFirst at approximately 33%. This is larger than specialists, inpatient or outpatient, and any other cost at CareFirst, and continuing to rise." Chet Burrell, former CEO, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield



Insurers setting their 2018 premiums for Maryland's individual market assumed their drug costs will grow **17%** from last year, while expecting just a **6%** growth for medical care.



Insurers setting their 2018 premiums for Maryland's small employer group market assumed drug spending will grow **10%** from last year, which is more than the **7.5%** growth they report for medical care.

### PUBLIC HEALTH/TAXPAYERS



The skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs threaten the public health of Marylanders.



At the height of the opioid epidemic, communities across Maryland struggle to afford naloxone, a lifesaving antidote to overdose. In recent years, some manufacturers have **raised their prices over 500%**



Maryland receives a "C" when evaluating the state's Hepatitis C Medicaid access. With the necessary medications **costing many thousands of dollars**, the state is forced to triage patients, treating only those who have suffered from moderate to severe liver damage.



In addition to paying for our own drug coverage, our state taxes support the growing cost of drug coverage for Medicaid; prisons; state, local, university employee, retirees, and dependents. **That's about 30%** of the state population.

## What can I do?

With your help, we can address these issues by creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board in Maryland

Join the  
Prescription Drug  
Affordability Coalition  
today!



Visit [healthcareforall.com/RxResolution](http://healthcareforall.com/RxResolution) and sign-on to be a part of the initiative!

For questions or comments contact us at [healthcareforall.com](http://healthcareforall.com) or call 410-235-9000

