



May 15, 2024

Dear Candidate;

Congratulations on winning your Primary Election!

On behalf of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, I am writing to urge you to commit to support the life-saving health care access and prescription drug affordability provisions of President Joe Biden's landmark Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. Since 1999, we have been Maryland's premier health care advocacy organization working to expand health care coverage and make health care more affordable, including leading the advocacy for Maryland's first in the nation Easy Enrollment and Prescription Drug Affordability Board laws enacted in 2019. We are writing to ask how you stand on protecting the life-saving health care coverage and prescription drug affordability provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and we plan to do all we can to make sure Maryland voters know how you stand on this critical issue.

As you know, the IRA for the first time authorizes Medicare to negotiate with the big drug corporations to keep down the cost of expensive prescriptions, caps what people on Medicare have to pay for insulin to no more than \$35 per month, and as of January 1, 2025, puts a limit of \$2000 per year on what people on Medicare will have to pay in out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs. These changes together will save tens of millions of Americans—including many in Maryland—from the physical and financial pain of expensive drugs, and will save the United States Treasury hundreds of billions of dollars a year. We know that Marylanders care very much about this issue as seen in a [recent Maryland survey by OpinonWorks](#) in which 62% of respondents said they were concerned about the issue of prescription drug affordability and 45% said that they or a loved one had been directly impacted by high cost drugs. Further, the IRA built on the progress of the Affordable Care Act by keeping in place until 2025 additional federal health care subsidies which have allowed millions more Americans, including tens of thousands here in Maryland, to be able to afford health care coverage. We must keep these critical new benefits in place.

You can read more coverage of the progress that the IRA has made for health care in this [Baltimore Sun OpEd](#) by myself and climate activist, Jamie DeMarco, and this [Washington Post](#) piece by Dr. Leana Wen.

The IRA only barely passed the United States Congress in 2022 and there are those who would want to weaken or repeal it.

That is why we are asking that by July 15, 2024, you sign on to commit to supporting the IRA and the people who rely upon it for their health and well-being by filling out the short form at:

healthcareforall.com/candidate. As you can see, we are asking you to commit to oppose any effort to weaken or repeal the IRA and to support any measures which would keep its present provisions in place. In particular, we need you to commit to support keeping in place the additional health care subsidies which are scheduled to expire in 2025.

We will do all we can to publicize widely the responses (and non-responses) which we receive.

We all know that the IRA is not a panacea and that more work needs to be done and we hope that you will improve upon the IRA if you get elected. Here in Maryland we are building on the IRA's prescription drug affordability provisions with the work of our landmark Prescription Drug Affordability Board, we continue to make progress in making sure that all Marylanders have access to quality affordable health care, and we are doing all we can to reduce health disparities and improve health equity. But, all of our progress in Maryland would be undermined and set back if the IRA is repealed or weakened. Therefore, we will work to make sure that the voters of Maryland know which candidates for the United States Senate and House of Representatives are committed to protecting our hard-won health care gains.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent DeMarco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vincent" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "DeMarco".

Vincent DeMarco
President, Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative