



**Mailing Address:**

Attn: Jen Laws  
PO Box 3009  
Slidell, LA 70459

**Chief Executive Officer:**

Jen Laws  
Phone: (313) 333-8534  
Fax: (646) 786-3825  
Email: [jen@tiicann.org](mailto:jen@tiicann.org)

**Board of Directors:**

Darnell Lewis, Chair  
Riley Johnson, Secretary  
Dusty Garner, Treasurer

Michelle Anderson  
Hon. Donna Christensen, MD  
Kathie Hiers  
Kim Molnar  
Judith Montenegro  
Amanda Pratter  
Trelvis D. Randolph, Esq  
Cindy Snyder

**Director Emeritus:**

William E. Arnold (*in Memoriam*)  
Jeff Coudriet (*in Memoriam*)  
Hon. Maurice Hinchey, MC (*in Memoriam*)  
Gary R. Rose, JD (*in Memoriam*)

**National Programs:**

340B Action Center  
PDAB Action Center

Transgender Leadership in HIV Advocacy  
HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch

**National Groups:**

Hepatitis Education, Advocacy & Leadership  
(HEAL) Group  
Industry Advisory Group (IAG)  
National ADAP Working Group (NAWG)

June 18, 2025

Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board  
169000 Science Drive, Suite 112-114  
Bowie, MD 20715

**RE: Data Contracting**

Dear Honorable Members of the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board,

The Community Access National Network (CANN) is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization focusing on public policy issues relating to HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis. CANN's mission is to define, promote, and improve access to healthcare services and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and/or viral hepatitis through advocacy, education, and networking.

While CANN is primarily focused on policy matters affecting access to care for people living with and affected by HIV, we stand in firm support of all people living with chronic and rare diseases and recognize the very reality of those living with multiple health conditions and the necessity of timely, personalized care for every one of those health conditions. State Prescription Drug Affordability Boards are of profound importance to our community.

**Scrutiny Should be Exercised in Data Contracting**

In seeking to procure entities for sources of data and consulting relationships, we urge the Board and staff to be diligent in assessing any conflicts of interest resulting from funding sources, political affiliations, or other organizational relationships that are not objectively positioned in the best interests of Marylanders.

Data utilized must be accurate, reputable, and of high quality. This includes guaranteeing the exclusion of QALY ideology or any other measure of comparison that penalizes any groups of constituents directly or indirectly disparately by nature. The Connecticut legislature recently released a [report examining questions surrounding PORTAL](#), the Harvard Program on Regulations, Therapeutics, and Law. Notably, the Connecticut legislature's report reveals a coordinated effort by private actors across several states regarding PDABs.

**RE: Data Contracting**  
**June 18, 2025**  
**Page Two**

The report indicates that its relationships include a wide range of associations, including **direct** involvement with organizations such as Arnold Ventures, NASHP, and RePo4EU. Previous Board discussions and analyses have also included data from the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) while ignoring data from other entities. It is incumbent upon both the Board and staff of the Maryland PDAB to serve the interests of Marylanders, not import the pre-determined outcomes and motives (political or otherwise) of outside interests. The funding source, which both initiates the legislation and seeks a contract to serve the Board, presents an exceptional conflict of interest. The Board is responsible for reviewing the ethical implications and conclusions of such contracts. Put directly, if specific funding is pushing both for specific legislation and funding the contractor being courted to advise the Board established by the legislature, is the Board truly "independent" rather than a governmental arm of a private actor? If the answer is "no" and the Board is obligated to halt all associations with entities funded by that private actor and seek immediate review of any materials, conclusions, and decisions guided by those entities funded by that outside actor and report those findings as appropriate to either the legislature, the Attorney General, the Governor, and the public writ large.

The best interests of Maryland citizens regarding affordability are at the forefront of concern. We urge staff to keep that as the primary guide in navigating data contracting.

Respectfully submitted,



Sincerely,  
Ranier Simons  
Director of State Policy, PDABs  
Community Access National Network (CANN)

----

On behalf of  
Jen Laws  
President & CEO  
Community Access National Network