



## Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board Comments on Proposed Drugs for Cost Review May 2024

I am submitting this comment on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC), an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members. We have been advocating for health care for all and affordable prescription drug prices since our inception in 2017.

Because the cost of prescription drugs for the citizens of Maryland had gotten so completely out of control, our members were happy to advocate for a first in the nation Prescription Drug Affordability Board. It was a bold step forward to stabilize prescription drug costs and keep the drug companies and insurance companies from gouging families across the state as they struggle to afford medications that they rely on to stay healthy and productive.

It has been several years since the Board was established, but due to the shortsightedness of the previous Governor, it had been languishing without full funding and without a complete roster of board members. Last year, with the help of activists, those problems were corrected.

In 2024, MLC supported legislation to expand the authority of the Prescription Drug Affordability Board through testimony and constituent emails to their legislators. The legislation would have allowed the five-member board to use upper payment limits to make high-cost medications more affordable for all Marylanders — not just those who work for state and local governments.

Almost all of our Coalition members struggle with high drug prices. They can't afford the copays. They can't afford to take medications that they need because those medications are priced out of reach. While we support the 8 drugs currently under review by the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board, of particular interest is Vyvanse which appears to have more of an intergenerational impact. One of our young members has trouble finding the medication and when they do, the copay is \$200/month. Without insurance, the cost can be as high as [\\$500/month](#). It is unconscionable to saddle anyone with high prescription costs, especially those who have other expenses and nascent careers

MLC will continue to vehemently support the expansion of the authority of the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to include all Marylanders and more medications.