

Dear Prescription Drug Affordability Board and Stakeholder Advisory Council members,

Over multiple decades, I've had the opportunity to work with skilled union craftsmen and women, who continue to build many facilities that discover and manufacture cures for our families. Between 2015 and 2020, Maryland workers contributed nearly 600,000 union labor hours to building state-of-the-art manufacturing and research facilities in Maryland's biopharmaceutical industry. We are incredibly proud of the work we do to help save lives.

Maryland's union workers appreciate the Board's work to help lower the costs of prescription drugs for Maryland state employees and for all Marylanders.

To that end, we very much appreciate the Board's recent comments that kept a tight focus on the need to lower out-of-pocket costs for patients. We urge you to remain vigilant on actual savings for Marylanders and explore policies such as accumulator bans, share-the-savings programs, and reverse auctions.

We urge you to remember the skilled union members who stand to lose unless we focus on patient out-of-pocket costs. We do not want to find ourselves locked in on policies that do little to ease the financial burden for Marylanders and unintentionally curb significant investments in Maryland research and jobs. Moreover, we want our State to continue being a leader in the development of the life changing cures that Maryland workers have worked so hard to help create.

Sincerely,

Fred D. Mason, Jr.  
Maryland State Consultant  
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