



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

TO: Chair Mitchell, Prescription Drug Affordability Board Members, Council Chairs

Diana and Nicole, and Members of the Stakeholder Council

FROM: Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, Howard County Executive Calvin Ball, Charles County Commissioner President Reuben B. Collins, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater, Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski, Jr., Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman, and Baltimore City Mayor Brandon M. Scott

DATE: December 19, 2022

SUBJECT: Prescription Drug Affordability for Maryland's Local Governments

We the undersigned Maryland local elected leaders are writing to reiterate our strong support for Maryland's landmark Prescription Drug Affordability Board, the Stakeholder Council, and the important work you are all doing to address the issue of high-cost drugs. This is an issue that touches all corners of our state, and as such, the Maryland Association of Counties and many of us individually advocated for the enactment of the legislation to create this Board in 2019. We are all very pleased with the progress you have made and look forward to your future work to fully implement the law to ensure all Marylanders are able to afford the medicine they need.

As local leaders, we are especially interested in the Board's initial authority granted by the 2019 law, which gives you the authority to put upper payment limits on what state and local governments pay for high-cost drugs. As the cost of prescription drugs continues to escalate, we strongly urge you to use this authority as soon as possible. These costs hurt our ability to provide comprehensive health coverage for our employees and impact our budgets as we see more and more of the money we should be using to improve county services go to paying ever increasing drug costs.

We also urge you at the appropriate time to ask the General Assembly to broaden your authority to allow you to put upper payment limits on what all Marylanders pay for high-cost drugs. We will be there to back you up. Just as county budgets are hurt by high-cost drugs, so are Maryland families. As you know so well, drugs don't work if people can't afford them, and no one should be forced to choose between their medicine and other necessities, like rent and groceries. Marylanders from across the state joined us for a series of forums hosted in our counties with the Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition and AARP Maryland—there, we heard loud and clear from our constituents how high-cost drugs are hurting them and their families. Many of these stories are featured in the report the Maryland Health Care for All! Coalition has compiled summarizing these forums held this past Fall and in 2020.

We are very proud of Maryland's leadership role in making high-cost drugs more affordable and the fact that other states are following our lead. With your terrific leadership, Maryland can stay at the forefront on this life-saving issue.