

Honorable Members of the House Appropriations Committee

Maryland General Assembly

3 West Miller Building

11 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

February 12, 2020

Dear Chairwoman and Members,

My name is Su Jusell-Lappin. I wanted to give you some background and to let you know how taking away my State of Maryland Prescription benefits will profoundly affect me. My family moved to the Eastern Shore in 1986 when my Family Practice Physician husband agreed to work in a physician shortage area to pay back several years of medical school. We stayed. I worked for the State of Maryland as a Clinical Social Worker, based at Greensboro Elementary School for 18 years. I provided individual and family therapy and case management services for mostly single parent families in a very poor, rural, population with a high rate of drug and alcohol abuse. I could have earned significantly more money in private practice or working for a non-state agency but I chose to serve the community in which I live. I took a cut in pay to start the job. I successfully was employed in a pilot project as the first Clinical Social Worker based in a Caroline County School. I lived through years of no salary increase, working overtime with no compensation, furlough days, and with the promise of good health benefits and prescription benefits when I retired. I retired in July 2018. In March 2019 I was diagnosed with Stage Four Poorly Differentiated Adenocarcinoma of the lung with metastasis and pleomorphic features. My initial prognosis was 3 to 4 months. After starting a targeted drug treatment that costs **\$531.46 per day, per pill** (approximately \$16,000.00 per month). My various tumors have reduced by 50%. My persistent cough is significantly better. I have only a \$40 co-pay per month which is written off by the drug company. My co-pay would be \$11,000 per month once I switch to a Medicare part D plan for just this prescription. I have five other prescriptions that I have not yet researched to determine what the co-pay would be. There is no help available to me because "my prescription insurance will then be through a state or federal agency." I cannot afford that. It would essentially become a death sentence. Please, Please support HB 1230 and Repeal SB 946. Thank you.

Signed Name: Su Jusell - Lappin

Ms. Su Jusell-Lappin LCSW-C, Retired

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