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March 4, 2020

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee

From: Patricia F. O'Connor, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

Re: Senate Bill 931 (Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Specialty Drugs - Definition): Letter of Concern

The Office of the Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit (HEAU) has concerns regarding Senate Bill 931, which would alter the definition of "specialty drug" to exclude a prescription drug prescribed to treat diabetes, HIV or AIDS. By doing so, it appears that the current law's limitations on copays and coinsurance for specialty drugs would no longer apply to these drugs for diabetes, HIV and AIDS. Unless equivalent protections are available by some other means, we are concerned about adverse consequences for patients requiring these life-sustaining prescription drugs.

cc: Sponsor and Members of the Finance Committee