

HB 429
Pharmacists - Required Notification and Authorized Substitution - Lower-Cost Drug or Device Product

Statement in SUPPORT

Chair Pendergrass, Vice-Chair Pena Melnyk and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 429. My name is David Blair, a life-long Marylander and I am very much in favor of HB429. I have spent my professional career of twenty-five years in the management of healthcare. I led a Fortune 500 company, started numerous businesses and founded non-profit initiatives to increase access to medications, lower pharmacy costs, enhance patient compliance and improve health outcomes. HB429 appropriately addresses these priorities.

The requirement that pharmacists notify patients of the lowest cost, therapeutically equivalent, brand drugs is an essential step toward lowering overall drug spend and making drugs more affordable for Marylanders. The difference in costs for therapeutic equivalent brand drugs can be significant and often impacts patients' adherence to their prescription protocols. For example, Diabetic patients can save \$2,600 annually by taking the lowest cost Basal Insulin versus other alternatives. Patients with Ulcerative Colitis can save over \$5,500 per year on Mesalamine DR and patients with Osteoporosis can save a staggering \$22,000 annually on Parathyroid Hormone by taking the lowest cost brand drug.¹

Providing patients with detailed and timely information on the varying costs of therapeutically equivalent drugs will increase patient compliance, lower overall healthcare costs, improve health outcomes, and result in a healthier Maryland.

Thank you and I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 429.

Sincerely,

David T. Blair
 The Council for Advocacy and Policy Solutions
 1101 Wootton Parkway, 10th floor
 Rockville, MD 20854
 (301) 605-1701

1. Drug savings analysis was computed on January 29, 2021 and compared the Average Wholesale Price (AWP) per 30 days as follows:

Condition; Ingredient Brand Product Name	Discounted AWP Cost per 30 days	Annual Savings
Diabetes; Basal Insulin		
Levemir	\$ 499.64	\$ 2,621.04
Basaglar	\$ 281.22	

Condition; Ingredient Brand Product Name	Discounted AWP Cost per 30 days	Annual Savings
Ulcerative Colitis; Mesalamine DR		
Pentasa	\$ 964.54	\$ 5,548.80
Apriso	\$ 502.14	

Condition; Ingredient Brand Product Name	Discounted AWP Cost per 30 days	Annual Savings
Osteoporosis; Parathyroid Hormone		
Forteo	\$ 3,776.49	\$ 22,097.40
Tymlos	\$ 1,935.04	