

March 6, 2024

Testimony on Senate Bill 989
Health Insurance - Epinephrine Injectors - Limits on Cost Sharing
(Epinephrine Cost Reduction Act of 2024)
Senate Finance Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of almost 1800 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge you to support Senate Bill 989, to limit the amount a covered individual is required to pay in copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles for a covered prescription epinephrine injector to no more than \$60.

This bill is very similar in concept to the insulin ‘co-pay cap’ that you passed two years ago, and deals with a very similar problem. Epinephrine auto-injectors are critical life-saving devices that should be available to, and carried at all times by both adults and children at risk for, or who have a history of serious allergic emergencies. Anaphylaxis can be life threatening, happen within minutes and can be caused by stinging and biting insects, allergy injections, foods, medicines, exercise, or unknown causes.

Persons at risk are advised to always have at least two on their person. For a child at risk these should be available at home, at day care or school, and while traveling. But many Marylanders, even with good insurance coverage, are currently paying hundreds per prescription. For those of low- or moderate income, more likely to be underinsured, the cost burden is severe and sometimes prohibitive.

Senate Bill 989 clearly addresses an issue of health equity in our society.

We urge you to give this legislation a **favorable report**.