

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, Senate Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support for HB 1384 (FAV)

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) in support of HB 1384, which would establish a single State pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) to oversee pharmacy benefits for the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

NCPA represents the interest of America's community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 19,400 independent community pharmacies across the United States and more than 300 independent community pharmacies in Maryland. These pharmacies employed more than 3,500 individuals, and they filled nearly 20 million prescriptions in 2023.

HB 1384 would establish a single, state-contracted PBM to administer pharmacy benefits across Maryland's Medicaid managed care program. NCPA strongly supports this approach, as it would improve transparency, accountability, and consistency in Maryland's Medicaid program. You may know that Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, Ohio, and Virginia now (or will) contract with a single PBM to administer their Medicaid managed care prescription drug benefits. Despite claims by opponents that a single PBM would increase costs in Kentucky, the Commonwealth saved \$282 million over 2 years.¹

HB 1384's prohibition of spread pricing will improve transparency and save the state's Medicaid program money. Spread pricing can cost state Medicaid programs millions of dollars in overcharges, as officials in Ohio, Kentucky, and other states have found after investigating the PBMs serving state-funded benefit plans.² This critical transparency provision will ensure payers' and patients' healthcare dollars are actually going towards their care, instead of into PBMs' pockets.

1. [09 27 2023 6. DMS Presentation \(2\).pptx](#)
2. Auditor of State of Ohio, Auditor's Report: Pharmacy Benefit Managers Take Fees of 31% on Generic Drugs Worth \$208M in One-Year Period, (Aug. 16, 2018) <https://ohioauditor.gov/news/pressreleases/Details/5042>. Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services, Medicaid Pharmacy Pricing: Opening the Black Box 5, 8 (Feb. 19, 2019), [Kentucky PBM Report Medicaid Pharmacy Pricing.pdf - Google Drive](#)

We urge you to support HB 1384. Thank you for receiving our perspective. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (703) 600-1179 or brooklyn.morgan@ncpa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooklyn Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brooklyn Morgan, PharmD
Associate Director, State Government Affairs