

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0055R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke, President Young, Councilmembers Dorsey, Scott, Costello, Burnett, Pinkett, Bullock, Schleifer, Sneed, Cohen, Middleton, Henry, Stokes
Introduced and adopted: December 4, 2017

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Prescription Drug Affordability Initiative

1
2 FOR the purpose of supporting the goals of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative and calling
3 on the State of Maryland to implement its 3 commonsense ideas to improve our citizens'
4 access to essential prescription drugs.

Recitals

5
6 **WHEREAS**, to protect our lives and our well-being, every family in Maryland requires access
7 to affordable prescription drugs.

8 **WHEREAS**, skyrocketing costs are making some medicines virtually inaccessible to our
9 families and neighbors.

10 **WHEREAS**, overall drug prices increased almost 9% in 2016 while general inflation increased
11 just over 2% in the same period, and since 2013 drug prices have risen an average of 10%
12 annually but inflation has only increased 1.2% on average since 2013.

13 **WHEREAS**, prescription drug spending accounted for over 22% of each health insurance
14 premium dollar in 2014, and nearly a quarter of people in their deductible period never picked up
15 their prescriptions from the pharmacy, presumably because of the cost.

16 **WHEREAS**, there are pharmacy benefit managers who reportedly ban pharmacists from
17 discussing lower-priced drug choices with their patients.

18 **WHEREAS**, Maryland should continue to lead the Nation in addressing the affordability of
19 prescription drugs, building on the State's landmark 2017 legislation banning price gouging by
20 manufacturers of generic and off-patent drugs.

21 **WHEREAS**, a broad coalition of State and local activists are working to support the Maryland
22 Citizens' Health Initiative calling for:

- 23 • Allowing pharmacists to provide information to consumers about lower cost drug
24 options;
- 25 • Requiring prescription drug corporations to provide notice of new, expensive drugs, or
26 large price increases of older drugs, as well as public justification for those pricing
27 decisions; and

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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- 1 • Making expensive drugs more affordable by creating a new Prescription Drug Cost
2 Review Commission to establish payment rates for expensive drugs that create significant
3 affordability problems for Marylanders, building upon Maryland’s successful tradition of
4 health care cost scrutiny.

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
6 Council supports the goals of the Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative and calls on the State of
7 Maryland to implement its 3 commonsense ideas to improve our citizens’ access to essential
8 prescription drugs.

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
10 Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the
11 Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House
12 Speaker, the Mayor, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.