

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2018 Legislative Session

Resolution No CR-2-2018
Proposed by The Chair (by request – County Executive)
Introduced by Council Members Glaros, Harrison, Turner, Taveras, Lehman,
Davis, Franklin and Patterson
Date of Introduction January 16, 2018

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Prescription Drug Affordability

3 For the purpose of expressing support for the goals of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative
4 and calling on the State of Maryland to implement three (3) common sense ideas to improve
5 citizens' access to essential prescription drugs.

6 WHEREAS, Prince George's County is committed to protecting the lives and well-being of
7 both Prince George's County and Maryland families; and

8 WHEREAS, Prince George's County, Maryland believes every family requires and should
9 have access to affordable prescription drugs; and

10 WHEREAS, the skyrocketing costs are making some medicines virtually inaccessible to
11 numerous families in Prince George's County and Maryland; and

12 WHEREAS, drug prices have risen approximately ten percent (10%) annually while
13 inflation only increased one point two percent (1.2%); and

14 WHEREAS, in 2016, overall drug prices increased nine percent (9%) while general
15 inflation only increased two percent (2%); and

16 WHEREAS, in 2014, prescription drug spending accounted for over twenty two percent
17 (22%) of each dollar spent on insurance premiums; and

18 WHEREAS, one quarter of Marylanders during the deductible period failed to pick up their
19 prescriptions from the pharmacy because of the cost; and

20 WHEREAS, pharmacy benefit managers reportedly ban pharmacists from discussing
21 lower-priced drug choices with patients; and

22 WHEREAS, Prince George's County, Maryland should continue to lead the Nation in

addressing the affordability of prescription drugs, building upon Maryland's landmark legislation banning price gouging by manufacturers of generic and off-patent drugs; and

WHEREAS, a broad coalition of Prince George's County and Maryland State activists are working to support the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative (MCHI); and

WHEREAS, MCHI and this broad coalition are advocating to (1) allow pharmacists to provide information to consumers regarding lower cost drug options (2) require prescription drug corporations to provide notice of new expensive drugs, increase in prices of older drugs, and public justification for pricing decisions and (3) make expensive drugs affordable by creating a Prescription Drug Cost Review Commission to establish payment rates for expensive drugs that create affordability problems for Marylanders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that Prince George's County hereby expresses support for Prescription Drug Affordability and strongly urges the State of Maryland to implement the aforementioned commonsense ideas to improve citizens' access to essential prescription drugs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the County Council provides a copy of this Resolution to the following:

Lawrence J. Hogan Jr., Governor, State of Maryland

Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller

House Speaker Michael E. Busch

Jim Rosapepe, Chair of the Prince George's County Senate Delegation

Jay Walker, Chair of the Prince George's County House Delegation.

Adopted this 16th day of January, 2018.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Dannielle M. Glaros
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council