

1 **..Title**

2 **Prescription Drug Affordability Initiative** - For the purpose of supporting the goals of the
3 Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative and calling on the State of Maryland to implement its three
4 commonsense ideas to improve our citizens' access to essential prescription drugs.

5 **..Body**

6 **CITY COUNCIL OF THE**
7 *City of Annapolis*

8
9 **Resolution 3-18**

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11 **Introduced by: Alderman Rodriguez, Mayor Buckley, Alderman Savidge,**
12 **Aldерwoman Tierney, Alderman Arnett and Aldерwoman Henson**

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14 **A RESOLUTION** concerning

15
16 **Prescription Drug Affordability Initiative**

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18 **FOR** the purpose of supporting the goals of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative and calling
19 on the State of Maryland to implement its three commonsense ideas to improve our
20 citizens' access to essential prescription drugs.

21
22 **WHEREAS,** to protect our lives and our well-being, every family in Maryland requires access
23 to affordable prescription drugs; and

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25 **WHEREAS,** skyrocketing costs are making some medicines virtually inaccessible to our
26 families and neighbors; and

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

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

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37 **WHEREAS,** there are pharmacy benefit managers who reportedly ban pharmacists from
38 discussing lower-priced drug choices with their patients; and

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

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44 **WHEREAS,** a broad coalition of State and local activists are working to support the Maryland
45 Citizens' Health Initiative calling for:
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- 1 • Allowing pharmacists to provide information to consumers about lower cost drug
2 options;
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- 4 • Requiring prescription drug corporations to provide notice of new, expensive
5 drugs, or large price increases of older drugs, as well as public justification for
6 those pricing decisions; and
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- 8 • Making expensive drugs more affordable by creating a new Prescription Drug
9 Cost Review Commission to establish payment rates for expensive drugs that
10 create significant affordability problems for Marylanders, building upon
11 Maryland's successful tradition of health care cost scrutiny.
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13 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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15 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the Council supports the
16 goals of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative and calls on the State of Maryland to implement
17 its three commonsense ideas to improve our citizens' access to essential prescription drugs.
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19 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that a copy
20 of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the City of
21 Annapolis House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, the President of the
22 Maryland Senate, and the Maryland House Speaker.
23

24 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that this
25 resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage.
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28 **EXPLANATION**

29 Underlining indicates matter added to existing law.

30 [~~Strikethrough~~] indicates matter stricken from existing law.
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