

# RetireSafe

May 12, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

**The Honorable Abigail Spanberger**  
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia  
1111 East Broad Street, 3rd Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

**RE: Veto Senate Bill 271 and House Bill 483 to Protect Virginia Seniors**

Dear Governor Spanberger,

On behalf of the Virginia seniors and patients RetireSafe represents, **I write today to urge you to veto Senate Bill 271 (SB 271) and House Bill 483 (HB 483) and prevent the implementation of federal Maximum Fair Prices (MFPs) in the Commonwealth.** We were encouraged by your amendments requiring careful study of these untested policies, but with the General Assembly returning the original bill to your desk, it is critical that you veto the legislation and protect Virginia patients from a policy that could reduce the availability of life-saving treatments or create hidden costs at the pharmacy counter.

While the bill's patrons claim that artificially setting prices will make prescription drugs more affordable for Virginians, price controls – whether at the state level or imported federally – will not translate to lower out-of-pocket costs for patients, particularly seniors and Virginians living with chronic conditions. In fact, research shows that federal negotiations have actually driven increases in out-of-pocket spending for patients on selected drugs.

Instead of addressing the true drivers of high healthcare costs – including the insurers and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) whose practices inflate premiums, copays, and out-of-pocket costs – this bill ignores the complexity of the healthcare system and leaves room for further abuses from these profiteering middlemen. As a result, despite the promise of lower prices, patient out-of-pocket costs, copays, and deductibles will remain largely unchanged and patients will be left shouldering the same, if not worse, financial burden.

Beyond empty promises of savings, these bills could also have serious unintended consequences for treatment access. Price controls could prompt some drug manufacturers to reduce distribution in Virginia and push physician-prescribed treatments out of reach or deter future investment into the innovative lifesaving or life-extending treatments seniors are waiting for. A January 2025 [survey](#) found over 93% of independent pharmacists are considering not stocking – or have already decided not to stock – one or more of the federally price-capped MFP medications. These pressures could drive instability in the drug supply, impacting vulnerable senior populations who rely on consistent access to their medications.

Other states moved fast on similar policies and learned their lesson the hard way. Maryland's board has burned through \$3 million in taxpayer money without saving patients a single dollar. New Hampshire scrapped its board entirely after five years of administrative expense with no results. Colorado's board remains mired in litigation. **Virginia patients deserve better than to be test subjects in a failed experiment.**

# RetireSafe

On behalf of seniors and patients across the Commonwealth, we urge you to veto HB 483 and SB 271. Your proposed amendments demonstrated a commitment to getting this right for Virginia patients. A veto is the final, necessary step to see that commitment through.

Thank you for your smart, measured approach to this matter and ongoing dedication to patient communities across the Commonwealth.

Best,

**Mark Gibbons**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Retire Safe  
2020 K Street NW  
Suite 505  
Washington, DC 20006