



Legislative Priorities

2019 Maryland General Assembly

Prescription Drug Affordability Board

Due to skyrocketing costs, 1 in 4 Americans says they have difficulty affording their prescription medications. Health insurance premiums are going up while at the same time public health agencies are struggling to afford drugs like naloxone and medications to cure Hepatitis C. Meanwhile, drug corporations spend billions more dollars on advertising than they do on research. Other developed nations pay much less for their prescription drugs than the United States because they negotiate with drug manufacturers. **Maryland needs to create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board to examine the entire drug supply chain for very high-cost drugs to establish fair and reasonable Drug costs.**

Lowering Maryland's Blood Lead Action Level for Kids

The science is clear that there is no safe level of lead in a child's body and the effects of lead poisoning are irreversible. All children poisoned with lead deserve the same environmental intervention response and treatments and that response needs to occur at lower levels. Maryland should adopt the CDC's standards that must be enacted now to advance prevention and reduce the health disparities that currently exist for lead poisoned children. **This bill will reduce the action level at which health departments intervene with poisoned children from 10 to 5 µg/dL.**

Tobacco21: Increasing the Sale Age for Tobacco Products

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death, killing 7,500 Marylanders annually. Passage of Tobacco21 will reduce smoking-caused deaths by 10%. Young, developing, brains are more sensitive to the effects of nicotine. Nearly 90% of smokers begin before age 18, and 95% begin before turning 26. Because nicotine is so addictive, any tobacco use among youth and young adults is particularly troubling. **Increasing the minimum legal sale age (MLSA) for tobacco products to 21 would reduce our youth's access to, and use of, tobacco products.**



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The Maryland Public Health Association is a non-profit, state-wide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders. Our Mission is improving public health in Maryland through education and advocacy. Our Vision is healthy Marylanders living in healthy communities.

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