



PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Applauds Members of General Assembly on Passage of Generic Drug Price Gouging Legislation

BALTIMORE, MD (April 10, 2017) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today commended members of the Maryland General Assembly after passage of HB 631. The legislation authorizes the Attorney General’s Office to take legal action to stop price gouging by corporations selling off-patent or generic drugs.

“When a drug company doubles or triples - or multiplies by 50 - the price of medication, it imperils the health and finances of patients and their families, and it threatens public health,” said Attorney General Frosh. “I applaud the members of the General Assembly for enacting HB 631. The new law will give Maryland a necessary tool to combat unjustified and extreme price increases for medicines that have long been on the market and that are essential to our health and well-being.”

In 2015, generic drug sales in the United States were estimated at \$74.5 billion; currently, the generic pharmaceutical industry accounts for approximately 88 percent of all prescriptions written in the United States. Late last year, Attorney General Frosh joined 19 other state attorneys general in filing a federal lawsuit against generic drug-maker Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Auribindo Pharma USA, Inc., Citron Pharma, LLC, Mayne Pharma (USA), Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. alleging that they entered into numerous illegal conspiracies in order to unreasonably restrain trade, artificially inflate and manipulate prices and reduce competition in the United States.

“The Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition commends the Maryland General Assembly for enacting the first in the nation law to authorize the Attorney General to take legal action to prevent prescription drug price gouging,” said Vincent DeMarco, President of the Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative. “We have full confidence that Attorney General Brian Frosh will implement this law well so as to protect Marylanders from unjustified prescription drug price increases. We urge states across the country and the US Congress to enact similar legislation so that we can all work together to make sure everyone can afford the prescription drugs they need to stay healthy.”