



Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number: Senate Bill 872
Title: Health Insurance – Consumer Protections
Hearing Date: February 26, 2020
Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 872 – Health Insurance – Consumer Protections*. This bill would establish consumer protections of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in a new sub-title.

LCPCM strongly supports ensuring that protections included in the ACA are codified in Maryland law in the event parts of the federal law are repealed or struck down through legal actions. This includes provisions around preexisting conditions and requiring insurers to cover dependents up to the age of 26 years old.

These two provisions will ensure that young adults continue to have access to coverage and that consumers with a serious mental illness do not face additional barriers to coverage due to restrictions on pre-existing conditions. This is especially important as the rate of suicide continues to increase in Maryland in recent years¹.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or 410-693-4000.

¹ Suicide Mortality by State. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/suicide-mortality/suicide.htm>