



Support

Senate Bill 787 – Managed Care Organizations and Health Insurance Carriers – Prior Authorization for HIV Postexposure Prophylaxis for Victims of Sexual Offenses -- Prohibition

Senate Finance Committee

February 23, 2022

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 787 – Managed Care Organizations and Health Insurance Carriers – Prior Authorization for HIV Postexposure Prophylaxis for Victims of Sexual Offenses – Prohibition*. The bill prohibits state regulated health plans from applying a prior authorization requirement for a prescription drug used as a postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent HIV if it is prescribed to a victim of alleged rape of sexual offense.

ACNM supports this legislation because it continues support for the Pilot Program for Preventing HIV for Rape Victims. This program was created to prevent HIV infection for victims of an alleged rape or sexual offense or victims of alleged child abuse. Currently, all Medicaid managed care organizations cover PEP drugs; however, some have prior authorization requirements. Eliminating the prior authorization requirements will lead to decreases in HIV infections due to the use of PEP drugs. This bill will also increase access for sexual offense survivors to obtain basic necessary life-saving drugs.

Providing care for sexual assault and rape survivors is an essential part of Maryland's public health strategy to lower the rate of HIV infections and provide essential care to Marylanders who need it most. We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Suhani Chitalia at schitalia@policypartners.net.