



patients as a result. This bill would allow a provider who is not licensed in the State of Maryland to provide behavioral health services via telehealth to a patient located in the State.

We are concerned that behavioral health services are not defined; that states have variable laws regarding the licensing and regulation of a variety of licensees who are allowed to deliver behavioral health services and the bill does not address the issue of conflicts of laws between the laws of Maryland and other states; we have the same concern regarding billing and collection of fees for services, and the enforceability of our consumer protections for health insurance enrollees in disputes with out-of-state providers or with their carriers relating to claims; lack of clear language including consent to the jurisdiction of administrative tribunals; and limitations on the scope of authority of Health Occupations boards in Maryland.

While we are unsure how many Maryland law protections patients would lose if House Bill 421 becomes law, our concern is heightened because this is not a compact bill which would typically preserve or build in necessary safeguards, increasing the need for a comprehensive study.”

We would understand if the legislature decides that the pending study should be expanded to include consideration of the subjects raised by this bill, and should be completed by the pending study’s deadline of December 1, 2022. We simply ask, on behalf of healthcare consumers in Maryland, that careful consideration be given to all relevant issues to ensure that telehealth access to care doesn’t compromise quality of care, or the State’s ability to address violations of laws established to protect Marylanders.

cc: Sponsor