



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 308 – Health Insurance – Utilization Review – Revisions

Hearing Date: February 15, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports Senate *Bill 308 – Health Insurance – Utilization Review – Revisions*. The bill would alter the requirements for providers and carriers related to health insurance utilization review which would include the provisions regarding benchmarks for standardizing and automating the preauthorization process, and the online preauthorization system for payors, and preauthorization for prescription drugs, and private review agents. Additionally, the bill would alter the timelines related to internal grievance procedures and adverse decision procedures, and increases the penalties for violating certain provisions of law regarding private review agents.

MNA supports this legislation because the current law, in practice, has created more hurdles and roadblocks for providers trying to deliver care to their patients, and most importantly timely care to their patients. This legislation requires that a provider which made or participated in the adverse decision notify the insured’s provider prior to making the adverse decision and be available to discuss the basis for the denial and the medical necessity of the health care service rather than deny care and then allow for a peer-to-peer meeting after the fact. The 2021 report on the Health Care Appeals and Grievances Law related by the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) stated that the MIA modified or reversed the carrier’s decision (or the carrier reversed it during the course of investigation) 72.4% of the time on filed complaints, up from 70.5% in 2021. As the data suggests, this is a tremendous roadblock today in delivering timely care and House Bill 305 would significantly address one of the most care delaying hurdles.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpadd@policypartners.net.