



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: SB 308 - Health Insurance - Utilization Review - Revisions

Hearing Date: February 15, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) 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.

As a network of federally qualified health centers, we provide somatic, behavioral, and oral health service to underserved communities. Our practitioners spend a significant amount of time navigating the unneeded complexities of the preauthorization process. Our clinicians could spend more time on direct patient care if the preauthorization process was standardized across carriers. This legislation provides a reasonable framework to bring uniformity to the preauthorization system.

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