



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 308

Title: Health Insurance – Utilization Review – Revisions

Hearing Date: February 15, 2023

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports Senate *Bill 308 - Health Insurance – Utilization Review – Revisions*. The bill alters the requirements for providers and carriers related to health insurance utilization review including 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 alters 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.

LCPCM supports this legislation because the current law allows to many inconsistencies between carriers which makes the preauthorization process unnecessarily burdensome for our members and delays the care our patients require. Specifically the bill would require that the provider or the provider that serves on the health care service review panel that made an adverse decision be knowledgeable of and experienced in the diagnosis and the treatment under review rather than only board certified or eligible in the same specialty. We believe this is one of many changes the bill proposes that will decrease the rate of denials and allow our patients to receive timely care.

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