



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 990 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Step Therapy, Fail-First Protocols, and Prior Authorization - Prescription Drugs to Treat Serious Mental Illness

Hearing Date: March 6, 2024

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 990 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Step Therapy, Fail-First Protocols, and Prior Authorization - Prescription Drugs to Treat Serious Mental Illness*. The bill would streamline the process for prescribers in ensuring their patients could access needed medication for serious mental illnesses. The current pharmacy claims process is cumbersome, with many insurers requiring extra steps, such as step therapy and fail first protocols, for prescribers. Behavioral health providers and programs are already stretched thin in meeting the increasing need for services. We support legislation that reduces unnecessary administrative burdens to ensure providers can focus on patient care.

We ask for a favorable report. If you need any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.