



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ www.mota-members.com

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	Senate Bill 684 - Health Insurance - Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits - Sunset Repeal and Modification of Reporting Requirements
Hearing Date:	February 28, 2024
Position:	Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports Senate Bill 684 - *Health Insurance - Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits - Sunset Repeal and Modification of Reporting Requirements*. The bill alters reporting requirements on health insurance carriers relating to compliance with the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) and alters requirements for certain analyses of nonquantitative treatment limitations required of health insurance carriers. This bill also permits the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) to exercise discretion when reviewing subsets of nonquantitative treatment limitations under certain circumstances.

Occupational therapists are strong advocates for MHPAEA because they recognize the importance of providing equal access to mental health and addiction treatment. The MHPAEA ensures that insurance plans cannot impose greater restrictions on mental health and addiction benefits compared to other medical and surgical benefits. This means that individuals seeking occupational therapy services for mental health conditions or addiction should have the same coverage and benefits as those seeking treatment for physical health conditions.

Comprehensive reporting to the MIA is crucial. Reporting helps ensure that insurance companies are compliant with state regulations and guidelines related to mental health and addiction coverage. By accurately reporting information, the MIA can identify any discrepancies or violations in insurance plans that may be hindering individuals from accessing the necessary care they need. Accurate reporting provides valuable data that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of current policies and make informed decisions about potential improvements or adjustments. Ultimately, comprehensive reporting to the MIA is essential for promoting transparency, accountability, and equity in healthcare coverage for all Maryland residents.

We as for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.