

Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) To the Senate Finance Committee Chair: Senator Pamela Beidle March 5, 2024 Senate Bill 0990: Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Step Therapy, Fail-First Protocols, and Prior Authorization - Prescription Drugs to Treat Serious Mental Illness

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA), is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 0990: Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Step Therapy, Fail-First Protocols, and Prior Authorization - Prescription Drugs to Treat Serious Mental Illness

Removing barriers to treating certain mental illnesses or a medication-induced movement disorder associated with the treatment of a severe mental illness will improve the health and well-being of rural Marylanders.

On behalf of the Maryland Rural Health Association, Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Executive Director <u>jdayton@mdruralhealth.org</u>