



To: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: House Bill 995 – Workgroup to Study the Rise in Adverse Decisions in the State Health Care System - Establishment

Date: February 19, 2025

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants supports *House Bill 995 – Workgroup to Study the Rise in Adverse Decisions in the State Health Care System - Establishment*. This bill creates the Workgroup to Study the Rise in Adverse Decisions in the State Health Care System which is charged with reviewing existing State adverse decision reporting requirements for all health payers in the State, making recommendations to improve State reporting on adverse decisions, developing strategies to reduce the number of adverse decisions, and developing recommendations for legislation to address the rise in adverse decisions and standardize State reporting requirements regarding adverse decisions across all payers.

As required by Chapters 848/847 (SB 791/HB 932), *Health Insurance – Utilization Review – Revisions* (2024), the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) and the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) released a report that, in part, reviewed adverse decisions in Maryland. The report found that adverse decisions increased around seven percent from 2019 to 2022. Maryland does not currently collect the information necessary to fully understand the process and reasons for these adverse decisions. This bill presents an opportunity to identify the reporting information needed on adverse decisions, which could impact the number of Marylanders who receive timely, appropriate care.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.