



Senate Finance Committee
February 28, 2025

Senate Bill 776 – *Workgroup to Study the Rise in Adverse Decisions in the State Health Care System – Establishment*

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

On behalf of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Maryland Section of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, we submit this letter of support with amendment for Senate Bill 776.

This bill establishes a workgroup to (1) review existing State adverse decision reporting requirements for all health payers in the State and include specified information in its final report; (2) make recommendations to improve State reporting on adverse decisions, including specified standardized definitions, methods, and processes; (3) develop strategies for, and make recommendations to reduce the number of adverse decisions; and (4) develop recommendations for legislation to address the rise in adverse decisions and standardize State reporting requirements regarding adverse decisions across all payers.

Maryland has a robust appeals and grievances law, and, because of it, the State is able to track the number of adverse decisions by health insurance carriers. The annual report by the Maryland Insurance Administration clearly demonstrates an alarming trend in the increase of adverse decisions, which too often deny patients health care services and overburden physicians as they work to care for their patients. The above-referenced organizations believe that this workgroup is timely to develop strategies to reverse the trend. In supporting the legislation, we would request that the workgroup include a named representative from MedChi, a representative from a federal qualified health center, and two physicians rather than one physician (similar to the hospital representatives).

With these amendments, we urge a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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