



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB746 Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Collaborative Care Model – Cost Sharing Provision

Good afternoon Madam Vice Chair and members of the Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about House Bill 746.

The Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) is an evidence-based behavioral health treatment pathway that targets individuals who are undergoing behavioral or mental health challenges on a case-by-case basis. Its efficacy has broad support within the literature, particularly among specific populations including the elderly, students, pregnant and nursing women, and those struggling with substance use.¹

In 2023, on the heels of a five year pilot program, I sponsored legislation – 2023 HB48 – that required the Department of Health to reimburse CoCM services under Medicaid. HB746 builds on the framework set by 2023 HB48 by prohibiting the imposition of copays for CoCM services across all insurance plans in Maryland. Because Medicaid copays only apply to prescription drugs, prohibiting them for all CoCM participants creates no additional cost burden on the state.

CoCM has repeatedly proven to be a highly effective method of care, and ensuring access to it is paramount to its continued success. I respectfully request a favorable report on HB746.

¹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9803502/>