



Support

Senate Bill 113 – Health Insurance – Provider Panels – Definition of Provider and Health Care Services

Senate Finance Committee

January 15, 2020

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 113 – Health Insurance – Provider Panels – Definition of Provider and Health Care Services*. This bill amends the definition of “provider” and adds a definition of “health care services” to clarify that the health care provider credentialing law applies to certain behavioral health service providers.

Marylanders continue to have difficulty accessing behavioral health services due to an overall shortage of behavioral health providers and an insufficient number of providers in health plan networks. LCPCM has been very supportive in recent years in addressing network adequacy including efforts in 2019 to pass legislation ensuring that insurers could not reject licensed graduate mental health providers on their provider panels when employed by community-based behavioral health programs. SB 113 is another step forward in closing the gap for consumers seeking mental health treatment.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. If you need further information, please contact our legislative representative, Rachael Faulkner, at (410) 693-4000 or rfaulkner@policypartners.net.