



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number: House Bill 455
Title: Health Insurance – Coverage for Mental Health Benefits and Substance Use Disorder Benefits – Treatment Criteria
Hearing Date: February 20, 2020
Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *House Bill 455 – Health Insurance – Coverage for Mental Health Benefits and Substance Use Disorder Benefits – Treatment Criteria*. This bill would require insurance carriers to report annually to the Maryland Insurance Administration on their compliance with the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act and authorize the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to impose penalties for noncompliance.

LCPCM strongly supports ensuring that Marylanders have access to behavioral health services, particularly as both the suicide rate and overdose deaths among Marylanders remain high. Federal law requires that coverage of behavioral health services be on par with coverage for somatic care. Unfortunately, as behavioral health providers, we continue to regularly encounter limitations in coverage, particularly with regard to the reimbursement of services.

Through required annual reporting to the Maryland Insurance Administration, this bill will help ensure that coverage of behavioral health services is fair and equitable in the insurance market.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael Faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or 410-693-4000.