



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	Senate Bill 638 – Maryland Insurance Commissioner – Specialty Mental Health Services and Payment of Claims - Enforcement
Hearing Date:	February 24, 2021
Position:	Support

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 638 – Maryland Insurance Commissioner – Specialty Mental Health Services and Payment of Claims – Enforcement*. The bill would provide for the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to enforce Insurance Article § 15-1005 in the review of any complaints related to administrative service organizations (ASOs) that administer mental health benefits.

MCHS is a network of federally qualified health centers, and we have been supporting our health centers in navigating the Department of Health’s recent transition to a new ASO to provide coverage of mental health services. The transition has been enormously challenging, as the ASO is not paying providers in a timely manner, putting some providers at great financial risk. These payment problems have occurred when providers are already stretched to the limit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We believe that the Maryland Insurance Commissioner could take steps to address problem of timely claims payments under existing law; and this legislation would ensure that such enforcement actions are a priority. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

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