



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	Finance Committee
Bill:	Senate Bill 460 – Consumer Health Access Program for Mental Health and Addiction Care - Establishment
Hearing Date:	February 22, 2022
Position:	Support

Maryland Community Health System supports *House Bill 517 – Consumer Health Access Program for Mental Health and Addiction Care - Establishment*. This bill creates a program to help patients address insurance issues that may prevent them from accessing behavioral health services.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers with a focus on providing somatic, behavioral, and dental services to uninsured communities. It is very challenging for consumers, even with the support of their providers, to navigate insurance issues within the behavioral health system. Insurance networks are often inadequate, in part because of provider shortages. As a result, consumers often have to seek care out-of-network, and it can be difficult to obtain coverage in those circumstances. This legislation offers support, through behavioral health insurance experts, to support Maryland consumers in accessing behavioral health services.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can be helpful in any way, please let us know by contacting Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.