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STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

March 2, 2022

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
        Chair, Finance Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit

Re: Senate Bill 621 (Health Insurance – Changes to Coverage, Benefits, and Drug
        Formularies – Timing): Support

        The Office of the Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit
(HEAU) supports Senate Bill 621 which would prohibit changes to coverage, benefits, or
drug formularies under a health insurance policy or contract during the term of the policy
or contract. The bill expressly provides that the coverage of services or benefits provided
under a health insurance policy or contract may be changed on renewal of the policy or
contract. The bill further provides that, during the term of a policy or contract, a drug or
device may not be removed from a formulary or moved to a benefit tier that requires a
member to pay a higher deductible, copayment, or coinsurance amount for the drug or
device, but that such removals or tier changes may happen on renewal as long as an
affected member and her provider are given at least 30 days written notice and are told
how to seek an exemption.

        The HEAU has assisted consumers who have been adversely affected by changes
to coverage, benefits and drug formularies during the terms of health insurance policies
and contracts. Remedial relief can be hard to obtain under current law. We support this
bill because we believe consumers are entitled to the benefit of the bargain they entered
into at the beginning of a policy or contract term, plain and simple.

        We ask the committee for a favorable report.

cc: Sponsor

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