



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

HB 715 Administrative Services Organizations – Requirements for Retraction, Repayment, or Mitigation of Claims
Senate Finance Committee. March 2nd, 2022

SUPPORT

In a situation described as a “**fiasco**,” “**debacle**,” and “**administrative nightmare**,” Optum is now charging large sums to providers who have no way of verifying whether these sums are owed.

Behavioral health providers have already been put under tremendous strain, spending countless unreimbursed hours of staff time to reconcile old claims, and have suffered cash flow crises.

Optum has never been able to report the reliable information needed to make these reconciliations possible.

By now it is clear that Optum is incapable of ever providing this transparency.

If an independent auditor is also unable to identify verifiable, transparent information on claims reconciliation in a timely manner, than **attempts to collect mysterious payments from providers must cease.**

Maryland’s providers of public behavioral health services have already paid too much.

Ultimately it is the citizens of Maryland with mental and substance use challenges who suffer the consequences of the failure to enforce the ASO contract.

Respectfully,

Joseph A. Adams, MD, FASAM, Chair, Public Policy Committee