

BRIAN E. FROSH
Attorney General

ELIZABETH F. HARRIS
Chief Deputy Attorney General

CAROLYN QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

Writer's Direct Email:
poconnor@oag.state.md.us



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

WILLIAM D. GRUHN
Chief
Consumer Protection Division

Writer's Direct Fax No.
(410) 576-6571

Writer's Direct Dial No.
(410) 576-6515

February 15, 2022

To: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

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

Re: House Bill 675 (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 House Bill 675 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