



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 715

Title: Administrative Services Organizations – Requirements for Retraction, Repayment, or Mitigation of Claims

Hearing Date: March 2, 2022

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *House Bill 715 – Administrative Services Organizations – Requirements for Retraction, Repayment, or Mitigation of Claims*. This bill will provide important protections to behavioral health providers who were impacted by the ongoing issues with Optum.

For the last two years, the state’s contracted Administrative Services Organization, Optum, has consistently failed to provide timely Medicaid payment and feedback to the state’s behavioral health providers. Currently, many providers are being required to pay Medicaid funds back to the state without Optum providing documentation to justify the retraction of payments. Providers are willing to return funds that were wrongly paid to them but there first needs to be a reliable accounting of what providers owe. Requiring providers to pay back Medicaid funds without a justification risks providers not accepting Medicaid in the future. HB 715 requires Optum to give providers a full accounting of what they were paid and why Optum is retracting payment. If Optum is unable to comply with this bill, they will be required to hire an external auditor to resolve outstanding payment issues. This bill will ensure that providers are only being charged for expenses that are actually owed to the state.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net.