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Testimony on House Bill 715
Administrative Services Organizations –
Requirements for Retraction, Repayment, or Mitigation of Claims
House Health and Government Operations Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1300 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge you to support House Bill 715.

HB 715 is an emergency bill requiring Optum – the state’s current administrative services organization (ASO) for public behavioral health services – to meet certain requirements before it can retract or require repayment for certain claims submitted by mental health and substance use providers. If Optum is unable to comply with these requirements they must retain an independent auditor to determine any amounts owed by providers.

The bill also allows providers to request an independent auditor at Optum’s expense to resolve differences regarding amounts owed, following reasonable efforts to reach resolution with Optum. Lastly, it requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to report to the legislature on plans to forgive any provider balances that resulted from service disruptions due to COVID-19.

The financial stress and disruption or impact on mental health and substance abuse services has been well reported and documented by community providers and the MD Behavioral Health Coalition. The statewide system of community-based providers is in jeopardy. This system provides are critically important services to many of the individuals and families throughout Maryland. Intervention by the General Assembly now appears essential to protect the health and welfare of many in our state.

We urge you to give House Bull 715 a favorable report



Maryland Nonprofits’ mission is to strengthen organizations and networks for greater quality of life and equity.