



## Maryland Community Health System

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 715 – Administrative Services Organizations – Requirements for Retraction, Repayment, or Mitigation of Claims

**Hearing Date:** March 2, 2022

**Position:** Support

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Maryland Community Health System strongly supports *House Bill 715 – Administrative Services Organizations – Requirements for Retraction, Repayment, or Mitigation of Claims*. The bill provides for accountability measures for an administrative services organization managing claims for behavioral health services under Maryland’s Medical Assistance Program.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers focused on providing somatic, behavioral, and dental services to the underserved communities. For the past two years, our members have been dealing with the failures of the state’s contracted Administrative Services Organization (ASO). These failures have been so severe that they have compromised Maryland’s safety net provider community for behavioral health services.

Providers have faced delayed payments, incorrectly rejected claims, and a consistent lack of communication. Because of its inability to properly manage Medicaid payments for behavioral health services, the ASO overpaid some providers and is currently requiring these providers to return these overpayments. Providers are more than willing to pay back funds they owe the state, but the ASO has not provided providers with a reliable accounting of what they owe. Currently, the burden is on providers to determine if the ASO is charging them the correct amount. The legislation will require the ASO to give providers the documentation necessary to justify payments back to the state. Requiring providers to refund the state without documentation is unfair and puts a significant financial burden on providers and ultimately leaves fewer resources to serve patients.

We ask for a favorable report, and we stand ready to assist the Committee in every way possible in this endeavor. If we can be helpful in any way, please let us know by contacting Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).