



House Health & Government Operations Committee

February 16, 2023

House Bill 305

**Health Insurance – Utilization Review – Revisions
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 305. Reforming the utilization review process as proposed in this bill will protect patients in a number of ways.

First, people should be allowed to remain on a prescription medication without endless prior authorizations when the treatment or management of the condition is successful. Prior authorizations should also not be needed for certain dosage changes, nor when the prescription has to be divided because of the different formulations of the drug.

Second, we hear from substance use treatment providers that determinations are made by carriers' private review agents who are not trained in the specialty of addiction medicine. It is frustrating when a provider who has a great deal of experience in one area of health care cannot rely on the level of expertise or experience of the person making important decisions for their patients.

Finally, NCADD-Maryland **supports the strengthening amendments being offered by the Legal Action Center** that will help make the process using private review agents more uniform.

With these changes, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 305.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.