



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ www.mota-members.com

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 305 - Health Insurance - Utilization Review - Revisions

Hearing Date: February 16, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 305 - Health Insurance - Utilization Review - Revisions*. The bill would alter the requirements for providers and carriers related to health insurance utilization review which would include the provisions regarding benchmarks for standardizing and automating the preauthorization process, and the online preauthorization system for payors, and preauthorization for prescription drugs, and private review agents. Additionally, the bill would alter the timelines related to internal grievance procedures and adverse decision procedures, and increases the penalties for violating certain provisions of law regarding private review agents.

Occupational therapy services are effective in assisting individuals to manage chronic diseases more effectively, thereby improving their quality of life and ability to engage in meaningful occupations, while decreasing frequency of medical interventions. The current preauthorization requirements in law only hinder occupational therapists in delivering care, and this bill will alleviate a number of burdens such as different preauthorization systems between carriers and require evidence-based, peer reviewed criteria as the standard of care developed by an organization that works directly with health care providers or a professional medical specialty society rather than what a carrier is currently permitted to do.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.