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February 14, 2023

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Ariana B. Kelly, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, RM 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 305 – Health Insurance – Utilization Review - Revisions

SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the Senate Finance Committee to **FAVORABLY REPORT** on Senate Bill 308.

The Maryland Psychological Association supports the intent of House Bill 305 to protect Maryland's citizens who are required to undergo the time-consuming, costly, and anxiety-provoking Utilization Review (UR) process for treatments and medications recommended by their treating providers.

The Utilization Review process used by insurers has been the equivalent of the fox guarding the hen house – that is, each insurer has had the authority to write their own guidelines and requirements for the review process they use to determine whether they will pay for a treatment already recommended by their practitioner. We support the intent of this bill to provide more robust standards for the UR process. We also appreciate and strongly support the revised time guidelines which provide more timely notification to the consumer and their treating practitioner. Furthermore, we support the new language which provides for some guardrails to the UR process for prescription medications.

Utilization review is used by insurers to restrict access to care. We sincerely appreciate your efforts to hold insurers accountable for these processes and make them more transparent and standardized. We urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 305.

Thank you for considering our comments on House Bill 305. If we can be of any further assistance as the House – Government and Operations Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnik, Psy.D.

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs