



**Senate Finance Committee
February 21, 2024**

**Senate Bill 93
Health Insurance – Utilization Review – Private Review Agents**

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 93, which will designate utilization review criteria and help Marylanders get evidence-based care regardless of their health plan.

Under current law, Maryland requires a single set of utilization review standards for substance use disorder care, ASAM Criteria. This Committee has played an important role in passing legislation over the years that ensures this uniform, evidence-based care regardless of which health plan a person has. However, Maryland gives carriers total discretion in selecting criteria for mental health care.

As proposed in Senate Bill 93, requiring private review agents to explain their application of the required criteria to the health care provider before issuing a denial will eliminate inappropriate denials and help Marylanders get more timely mental health treatment. Marylanders need stronger utilization review requirements to ensure they have access to the type and duration of mental health and substance use disorder treatment they need.

We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 93.