



# Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ [mota-members.com](http://mota-members.com)

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Senate Finance Committee</b>
<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>Senate Bill 93</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Health Insurance – Utilization Review – Private Review Agents</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>February 21, 2024</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Support</b>

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The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports Senate Bill 93 – *Health Insurance – Utilization Review – Private Review Agents*. The bill requires that certain criteria and standards used by private review agents for health insurance utilization review relating to mental health and substance use disorder benefits meet generally accepted standards of care and requires a private review agent to give the patient’s treating provider an opportunity to speak before issuing an adverse decision.

Occupational therapists play a critical role in promoting the health and well-being of individuals. They are trained professionals who assess and provide therapy to help individuals regain functional independence in their daily lives. Given the importance of their work, it is essential that occupational therapists have the opportunity to speak with a private review agent before an adverse decision is rendered. This would allow them to explain their treatment approach, provide additional information, and address any concerns that the private review agent may have. By having this opportunity, occupational therapists can ensure that their expertise and knowledge are properly considered, leading to fair and informed decisions regarding patient care. Providing occupational therapists with the chance to speak with a private review agent before an adverse decision is made will contribute to improved patient outcomes and a more comprehensive understanding of the therapeutic process.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at [mpaddy@policypartners.net](mailto:mpaddy@policypartners.net).