



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill:	Senate Bill 93 - Health Insurance – Utilization Review – Private Review Agents
Hearing Date:	February 21, 2024
Position:	Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) 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.

MCHS is a network of seven federally qualified health centers with 55 sites serving communities across Maryland. A healthcare provider should have the opportunity to speak with a private review agent before an adverse decision is rendered for several reasons. This allows the health provider to provide additional information or clarification regarding the case in question. This can help the private review agent better understand the circumstances and potentially reconsider their decision. Speaking directly with the review agent allows the health provider to address any concerns or discrepancies in the review process, ensuring a fair and unbiased assessment. Allowing a healthcare provider to speak with a private review agent before an adverse decision is rendered is crucial in ensuring fairness, transparency, and quality in the decision-making process.

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