



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 684 – Health Insurance – Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits – Sunset Repeal and Modification of Reporting Requirements

Hearing Date: February 28, 2024

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 684 – Health Insurance – Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits – Sunset Repeal and Modification of Reporting Requirements*. The bill repeals the sunset date for reporting requirements that assist the Maryland Insurance Commission in enforcing parity requirements.

LCPCM strongly supports ensuring that Marylanders have access to behavioral health services, particularly as both the suicide rate and overdose deaths among Marylanders remain high and substance use disorder continues to increase. Under the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, a plan or issuer may not impose a non-quantitative treatment limitation (NQTL) on mental health and substance use disorder benefits unless, under the terms of the plan or coverage, any processes, strategies, evidentiary standards, or other factors used in applying the NQTL are comparable to those used in applying the limitation to other benefits in the same classification. The information requested in this bill will better aid the Maryland Insurance Administration in confirming the law is being appropriately followed.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.