



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ mota-members.com

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	Senate Bill 487
Title:	Health Maintenance Organizations - Payments to Nonparticipating Providers - Reimbursement Rate
Hearing Date:	February 7, 2024
Position:	Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports Senate Bill 487 – *Health Maintenance Organizations - Payments to Nonparticipating Providers - Reimbursement Rate*. The bill requires health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to reimburse nonparticipating providers a reimbursement rate that takes into consideration the Medicare Economic Index from 2019 to the current year.

Occupational therapists understand the importance of accessible and comprehensive care for patients. When HMOs fail to adequately reimburse out-of-network providers, it limits the options available to patients and can hinder their ability to receive the necessary treatment. By increasing the reimbursement rate, occupational therapists believe that more providers will be willing to work with HMOs, leading to better access to care and improved outcomes for patients. Additionally, a fairer reimbursement rate would also incentivize providers to join HMO networks, strengthening the overall healthcare system. Overall, occupational therapists support the change in reimbursement policies to ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

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