



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

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

**Hearing Date:** February 21, 2024

**Position:** Support

---

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) strongly 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.

A licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC) should have the opportunity to speak with a private review agent before an adverse decision is rendered. This would allow LCPCs to provide additional information or clarification regarding their practice and the services they provide. By engaging in a conversation with the private review agent, the counselor can address any misunderstandings or misconceptions that may have arisen during the evaluation process. Secondly, speaking directly with a private review agent can offer the counselor an opportunity to advocate for themselves and present their case in a more personal and nuanced manner if the alternative is to have an adverse decision made with no specific understanding. This can be crucial in ensuring a fair and unbiased decision is made. Providing licensed clinical professional counselors with the chance to speak with a private review agent before an adverse decision is reached can enhance transparency, fairness, and effective communication in the evaluation process.

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