Committee:	House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill:	House Bill 1423 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Step Therapy, Fail-First Protocols, and Prior Authorization – Prescription Drugs to Treat Serious Mental Illness.
Hearing Date:	February 28, 2024
Position:	Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *House Bill 1423 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Step Therapy, Fail-First Protocols, and Prior Authorization – Prescription Drugs to Treat Serious Mental Illness.* The bill would streamline the process for prescribers in ensuring their patients could access needed medication for serious mental illnesses. The current pharmacy claims process is cumbersome, with many insurers requiring extra steps, such as step therapy and fail first protocols, for prescribers. Behavioral health providers and programs are already stretched thin in meeting the increasing need for services. We support legislation the reduces unnecessary administrative burdens to ensure providers can focus on patient care.

We ask for a favorable report. If you need any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.