



Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Bill: SB 902 – Health Insurance – Access to Nonparticipating Providers – Referrals,
Additional Assistance, and Coverage
Hearing Date: February 26, 2025
Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports Senate Bill 902 - Access to Nonparticipating Providers – Referrals, Additional Assistance, and Coverage. The bill removes the sunset from the law preventing commercially insured Marylanders from being billed extra when they are forced to go out-of-network for behavioral health treatment. Removal of the sunset permanently will ensure Marylanders continue to receive necessary treatment and not allow health insurers to shift costs back to patients.

In addition to the sunset repeal, Senate Bill 902 makes several changes that should improve patient access to care and patient outcomes. Under the bill, individuals seeking care can obtain a referral to go out-of-network, prior to having a specific diagnosis. Senate Bill 902 also seeks to ensure balance billing protections for the full duration of the treatment plan requested and requires health insurers to provide additional assistance when individuals cannot find an out-of-network provider on their own.

Much progress has been made, and Senate Bill 902 will help better address the unmet need for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

LCPCM urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 902 a FAVORABLE Report. Please contact Andrea Mansfield at amansfield@maniscanning.com or (410)562-1617 if we can provide additional information.