



To: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 921 – Health Insurance - Step Therapy or Fail-First Protocols - Drugs to Treat Associated Conditions of Advanced Metastatic Cancer

Date: February 26, 2025

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA) strongly supports *Senate Bill 921 – Health Insurance - Step Therapy or Fail-First Protocols - Drugs to Treat Associated Conditions of Advanced Metastatic Cancer*. The bill would prohibit Medicaid and state-regulated plans from requiring a step therapy or fail-first protocol before covering a prescription drug that is used to treat a symptom of, or a side effect from, treatment of stage four advanced metastatic cancer. Use of the prescription drug must be consistent with best practices and supported by peer-reviewed medical literature.

Patients should not have to wait for the most effective form of treatment. Step-therapy practices can prolong ineffective treatment, increase costs, and negatively impact health outcomes. For people facing advanced metastatic cancer, they should be able to access medication to manage their symptoms without delays.

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