



Maryland Community Health System

Bill Number: House Bill 382 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Step Therapy, Fail-First Protocols, and Prior Authorization - Prescription to Treat Serious Mental Illness

Committee: House Health and Government Operations

Hearing Date: January 30, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *House Bill 382 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Step Therapy, Fail-First Protocols, and Prior Authorization - Prescription 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.

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) is a network of federally qualified health centers that serve underserved communities in urban, suburban, and rural areas across Maryland. Currently, patients with serious mental illnesses face unnecessary delays and administrative hurdles due to insurers requiring additional steps before covering necessary medications. These barriers can lead to treatment delays, which may negatively impact patients' health and well-being.

House Bill 382 aims to reduce these obstacles by simplifying the process for prescribers, allowing them to more easily ensure that their patients receive the medication they need without facing extensive paperwork or additional approval processes. This would help ensure timely access to effective treatments, improving overall health outcomes for those with serious mental illnesses.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can answer any questions, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.