



To: House Health and Government Operations

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

Date: January 30, 2025

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants 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.

Mental health disorders encompass a spectrum of conditions that can be debilitating for patients and their families. Access to appropriate medication is often paramount to effective treatment and overall well-being. However, current practices can hinder timely access, leaving many patients in dire need of care. This bill would alleviate some of the burdens associated with the prescription process, ensuring patients receive the necessary medications without undue delay.

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