



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners
4201 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215

March 6, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 1314 Health Care – Prior Authorizations – Prohibiting Fees and Use of Artificial Intelligence – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Board of Social Worker Examiners (BSWE) is writing this Letter of Support for HB 1314, which will prohibit certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations from using artificial intelligence (AI) to automatically deny authorizations.

Licensed social workers in Maryland provide vital health care services to clients throughout the state and often bill insurance carriers for their services. Additionally, social workers have a long history of advocating for their clients. Denying a claim using AI seems arbitrary and potentially could interfere with the care clients need as well as cause them greater emotional stress and harm. Moreover, charging additional fees for prior authorizations are costs that could get passed on to patients.

For these reasons, the Board of Social Work Examiners requests a favorable vote on HB 1314. If you require more information, please contact me at 410-740-4722 or at karen.richards2@maryland.gov.

Respectfully,

Karen Richards, LCSW-C
Executive Director, BSWE

The opinion of the Board of Social Work Examiners expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.