



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

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

Hearing Date: January 30, 2025

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) support House Bill 382 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Step Therapy, Fail-First Protocols, and Prior Authorization – Prescription to Treat Serious Mental Illness. This bill prohibits prior authorization requirements, step therapy protocols, and fail-first protocols for prescription drugs used to treat individuals with serious mental illnesses (SMI).

Medication is an integral part of care for individuals suffering with SMI and the prescribing of these medications is very personalized as what may work for one individual may not work for another. Providers need the ability to work closely with their patients to prescribe medications best suited to patient needs without being forced to first go through protocols that deny patients' access.

HB 382 is about providing protection to individuals suffering with SMI and ensuring access to medications in a timely manner to provide the best treatment possible.

LCPCM urges the Committee to give HB 382 a FAVORABLE Report.

Please contact Andrea Mansfield at [amansfield@maniscanning.com](mailto:amansfield@maniscanning.com) or (410) 562-1617 if we can provide additional information.