



March 11, 2025

Chair Pena Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maryland and our 11 local affiliates across the state represent a statewide network of more than 58,000 families, individuals, community-based organizations, and service providers. NAMI Maryland is a non-profit that is dedicated to providing education, support, and advocacy for persons with mental illnesses, their families and the wider community.

HB1351 ensures that insurance carriers cannot subject providers to prolonged waiting periods before they can begin treating patients within a carrier's network. This bill would expand the number of in-network providers available under Maryland health plans—ultimately increasing patient access to care and reducing wait times.

Maryland is facing a critical shortage of mental health professionals, exacerbating unmet needs and leaving countless individuals without access to essential care. Establishing reasonable time limits on insurance carriers' credentialing decisions is a necessary step to address this crisis. Given the severity of our workforce shortage and the growing demand for mental health services, we must leverage every available tool to ensure timely access to care for Marylanders.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

Kathryn S. Farinholt
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