



January 28, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melynk
Chair, House Government and Operations Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

Dear Chair Pena-Melynk and Committee Members:

On behalf of Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, we respectfully submit our support for HB382. Attached you will find analysis that in partnership with Columbia Data Analytics we have conducted regarding the potential for HB382 to create cost savings within Medicaid for those diagnosed with serious mental illness. The study compared spending in Michigan, which has allowed open access to serious mental illness medications for over a decade, to that of several other states who have utilization management (step therapy and prior authorization) in place.

Should you have any questions about the data or wish to have a briefing on it by our policy staff please contact me at Patrick.Stone@otsuka-us.com.

Regards,

Patrick Stone
Director, State Government Affairs & Public Policy
Otsuka America Pharmaceutical