



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ mota-members.com

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	Senate Bill 490
Title:	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Step Therapy, Fail-First Protocols, and Prior Authorization - Prescription Drugs to Treat Serious Mental Illness
Hearing Date:	February 17, 2026
Position:	Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports Senate Bill 490- Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Step Therapy, Fail-First Protocols, and Prior Authorization - Prescription Drugs 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.

Occupational therapy practitioners [OTPs] address barriers that individuals with mental health conditions in the community experience by providing interventions that focus on enhancing existing skills, remediating or restoring skills, modifying or adapting the environment or activity, and preventing relapse. As such, both the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) include mental health services within the scope of practice for OTPs. The bill aims to reduce these obstacles by simplifying the process for prescribers, allowing them to more easily ensure that their patients receive the medication they need without facing extensive paperwork or additional approval processes. This would help ensure timely access to effective treatments, improving overall health outcomes for those with serious mental illnesses.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.