

SB0808_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

03/04/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

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TESTIMONY ON SB#0808- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Health Insurance - Provider Panels – Requirements

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0808, **Health Insurance - Provider Panels - Requirements**

This bill will ensure that up-to-date information is made available by health care providers by requiring that a carrier use the online credentialing system as the primary source of information to create and update the carrier's provider directory in accordance with regulations adopted by the commissioner. The commissioner shall adopt regulations governing the use by a carrier of the online credentialing system ... including the required frequency of updates.

A procedure will be established by this bill to establish and maintain a stakeholder workgroup to identify and address operational issues to ensure efficiency of the online credentialing system consisting of representatives of:

- health and dental carriers
- managed care organizations
- community health centers, including federally qualified health centers
- behavioral health providers
- private practices of physicians, dentists, advanced practice clinicians, and other clinicians
- credentialing intermediaries

This bill will alter the process by which health care providers apply to participate on a carrier's provider panel, including certain notice requirements; establishing certain civil penalties for carriers that fail to provide certain notices in a certain manner and during a certain time frame; repealing the authorization for a carrier to charge a certain application fee; requiring carriers to use certain information to update the carrier's provider directory at a certain frequency; etc.

Marylanders need current up-to-date information on medical resource availability to make pertinent decisions on management of their healthcare. This bill can provide those resources on a timely basis.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0808.