

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: February 28, 2019

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 599 – *Health Insurance – Coverage for Mental Health Benefits and Substance Use Disorder Benefits – Requirements and Reports*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 599. House Bill 599 will require carriers to submit two reports: 1) an annual report to the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) to demonstrate compliance with the federal Parity Act; and 2) carrier's data for mental health benefits, substance use disorder benefits, and medical/surgical benefits. The bill would also require MIA to develop a uniform reporting tool, review carrier reports, impose remedial measures to correct violations and post carrier summary reports on its website.

Access to mental health and substance use disorder benefits continues to be a challenge despite the steps taken to ensure parity with other medical benefits. House Bill 599 will provide the necessary data to MIA to ensure that carriers are compliant and will require carriers that are found not to be compliant to make the necessary changes. For these reasons, MedChi urges a favorable report on House Bill 599.

For more information call:

Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Richard A. Tabuteau
410-244-7000