

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
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DATE: February 28, 2019

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 837 – *Health Insurance – Payments to Noncontracting Specialists and Noncontracting Nonphysician Specialists*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 837. House Bill 837 requires each carrier to inform members and beneficiaries of the process to request a referral to a specialist or nonphysician specialist who is not part of the carrier's provider panel. More importantly, a carrier must pay a specified rate for a covered mental health or substance use disorder service provided to a member by a noncontracting specialist or nonphysician specialist and disclose the rate.

Ensuring that individuals have access to critical mental health and substance use disorder treatment services continues to be an area of concern. Part of this issue is also ensuring that when a specialist or nonphysician specialist is not part of the carrier's provider panel, he/she receives adequate payment for services and that the cost is not born by consumers. House Bill 837 addresses this issue and will assist in fostering adequate networks and/or adequate payment to these specialists. As such, MedChi supports House Bill 837 and urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

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