



February 29, 2012

The Honorable Peter A. Hammen  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 241  
Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1912

RE: HB470 – Maryland Health Care Commission – Preauthorization of Medical Services and Pharmaceuticals – Standards - **Support**

Dear Delegate Hammen:

HB470 proposes to require the MHCC to adopt regulations to establish standards for preauthorization of medical and pharmaceutical services and include a certain exemption process. This bill will set standards for preauthorization and penalties for noncompliance. The Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce supports this bill and believes the setting of standards will ensure timely authorization of services.

When dealing with insurance agencies that are nationwide, there are time and access scenarios which make obtaining authorization even more of a challenge. Health care providers, such as hospice and homecare agencies, are placed in a situation where waiting for preauthorization requires the agency to make the decision of delaying start of care or starting care and risk nonpayment of services due to not having authorization.

For these reasons, the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce asks that your committee give HB470 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael McMullin'.

Michael McMullin  
President  
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

cc: Senator Joseph M. Getty  
Delegate Susan W. Krebs