Legislative Briefing

OHA Health Policy Action

Your guide to proposed health legislation, what we think about it, and what we're doing about it.

March 2013

S.B. No. 1088; AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ADVERSE DETERMINATIONS BY HEALTH CARRIERS FOR THE TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISORDERS.

What is this bill about?

S.B. 1088 will establish a task force to study the numbers, frequencies and final outcomes of adverse determinations made by health carriers for the treatment of mental disorders, where such treatments were determined to be medically necessary by a covered person's treating health care professional. In addition, the elements addressed in this bill is within scope of a task force recommended by the Mental Health Services Working Group of the Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety "to conduct a comprehensive study of Connecticut's mental health system and make recommendations for enhancements to the mental health system for 16-25 year olds." Finally, many of the proposed initiatives in SB 1088 are already within OHA's authority as participants of the task force as consistent with our mission.

What are the implications of this bill for healthcare consumer advocacy?

The task force serves to ultimately improve the treatment of individuals with mental disorders, as mental health demands greater attention within our current healthcare system.

Please refer all media, agency, and legislator inquiries to Vicki Veltri

Talking Points

1. OHA is aware of this proposed legislation and submitted written public testimony **in support** of this bill.
2. This legislation will improve treatment of persons with mental disorders.
3. OHA supports this legislation based on the principles of access to quality healthcare, evidence-based improvements to our healthcare system, and consumer maximization of value for their health insurance premiums.

OHA represents the collective voice of 3.5 million healthcare consumers. For our state to be competitive, our people must be healthy. Our mission is to • assure managed care consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare • educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health insurance plans • inform legislators of problems consumers face in accessing care and propose solutions to those problems.