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. 1089; *To Redefine The Qualifications Of Clinical Peers For Adverse Determination Reviews*

What is this bill about?

SB 1089 will redefine the definitions of a clinical peer for adverse determination reviews.

Currently, Connecticut's definition of "clinical peer" is inconsistent with surrounding states and the protection of consumers who purchase insurance to cover medically necessary care. SB 1089 corrects this by ensuring that, for any adverse determination, the requested service or treatment and available clinical information has been reviewed by a clinician with training, experience and, where indicated, specialization relevant to the claim being reviewed. States surrounding Connecticut have more vigorous peer reviewer standards; e.g., Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York.

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

SB 1089 will ensure greater protection for consumers who purchase insurance in the state to cover medically necessary care.

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. The changes proposed in this bill are long overdue and represent an important step to aligning Connecticut with principles of equity, as well as other states
3. OHA supports this legislation based on the principles of access to equitable quality healthcare.

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.