

Health and Wellness Legislative Council Conference Call
February 25, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Minutes

The Maryland State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness held a conference call on 2/25/2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

Mary Backley
Jennifer Eastman
Mychelle Farmer
Gary Gerstenblith
Donna Gugel
Margaret Gwaltney
Jessica Kiel
Namisa Kramer
Vivienne Rose
Jason Semanoff
Geeta Sharma
Anne Williams

MDH Staff Present

Maya Nirmalraj
Kristi Pier

Guests Present

N/A

Members Not Present

Sumit Bassi
Angela Deal
Lois Freeman
Roger Harrell
Linda Kline
Julie Maneen
Seth Martin
David McShea
Aruna Nathan
Josie Ogaitis
Rachel Pigott
Cameron Pollock
Teresa Titus-Howard
Kristin Watson
Vanina Wolf
Pamela Xenakis

1. Open Legislative Council Meeting

Ms. Kiel called the Legislative Council meeting to order at 10:02 AM and held roll call.

2. Approve Minutes

Dr. Rose motioned to approve the February 7, 2020 minutes and Ms. Kramer seconded the motion.

Dr. Gerstenblith motioned to approve the February 11, 2020 minutes and Dr. Farmer seconded the motion.

3. Discussion

Ms. Gwaltney introduced **SB 952 (HB 1359)** and **SB 623 (HB 1360)** and provided an overview of their content. The bills were discussed, and members expressed interest in writing letters of support.

Dr. Gerstenblith motioned to vote on both bills and Dr. Rose seconded the motion.

SB 952 (HB 1359) – Health Insurance – Requirements for Establishing Step Therapy Protocol and Requesting Exceptions: 9 members voted in support of the letter during the call and 2 members abstained; 8 members voted in support online, 1 member abstained, 1 voted to oppose, and 1 voted to not approve; a total of 17 members voted in support, 3 abstained, 1 voted to oppose and 1 voted to not approve.

SB 623 (HB 1360) – Health Insurance – Out-of-Pocket Maximums and Cost-sharing Requirements – Calculation: 9 members voted in support of the letter during the call and 2 members abstained; 8 members voted in support online, 2 members abstained, and 1 voted to oppose; a total of 17 members voted in support, 1 voted to oppose, and 4 members abstained.

4. Open Comment from Public

There were no comments or questions from the public.

5. Close

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 10:00 AM