

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section ~~19-710(r)~~ ~~15-102.2~~ and ~~19-710.2~~

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1990 Replacement Volume and 1994 Supplement)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, Numerous public opinion surveys on health care reform identify the choice of one's own individual health care provider as the number one concern of the public; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The only effective way to ensure provider accountability and the continued high quality of care provided to patients is to promote the ability of patients to freely select providers and for providers to maintain ongoing professional relationships with their patients regardless of their network or panel affiliation; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Insurance networks with restricted panels of providers may create artificial barriers for patients to receive quality health care from providers of their choice; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Restrictive panels require patients to accept services from providers and facilities located many miles distant from their residences, which causes a great hardship to themselves and their families; now, therefore,~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

~~Article 48A - Insurance Code~~

~~361-I.~~

~~THE PROVISIONS OF § 490BB OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL APPLY TO ALL NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS.~~

~~490BB.~~

~~(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

~~(2) "CARRIER" MEANS:~~

~~(I) AN INSURER;~~

~~(II) A NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN;~~

~~(III) A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION;~~

~~(IV) A DENTAL PLAN ORGANIZATION; OR~~

~~(V) ANY PERSON ACTING AS A THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR.~~