GEORGIANS FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

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PRESS RELEASE

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New Dashboard Tracks Whether Insurers Are Following Georgia's Mental Health Parity Law

GHF launches first-of-its-kind tool to monitor insurer compliance with state and federal mental health parity laws

ATLANTA — This week, Georgians for a Healthy Future (GHF) released the Georgia Mental Health Parity Dashboard, a new tool that allows consumers and policymakers to track how well health insurers are complying with laws intended to ensure equal access to mental health and substance use disorder care.

The Georgia Mental Health Parity Dashboard tracks compliance with Georgia's Mental Health Parity Act (HB 1013) and the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) across state-regulated private health plans and the public health insurance programs Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids. It examines the rules and processes that most directly affect whether people can get the care they need, including how insurers define medical necessity, set cost-sharing requirements, and apply prior authorization and other utilization management tools.

Health insurers have historically imposed higher barriers to mental health and substance use disorder care so that they do not apply equally to physical health care. The Georgia Mental Health Parity Act (HB 1013), passed in 2022, requires insurers to cover mental health and substance use disorder care on the same terms as physical health care, including equivalent costs, coverage limits, and authorization requirements. However, four years after the law's passage, some insurers are still not meeting that standard.

> *"The dashboard provides an in-depth look at how well insurers are living up to their mental health parity obligations. People deserve to know who isn't complying with the law, and those companies should be held accountable."*
>
> **Whitney Griggs, Director of Health Policy, Georgians for a Healthy Future**

The Georgia Mental Health Parity Dashboard provides monitoring of compliance from both private and public health plans. The dashboard analyzes trends over time and allows policymakers and the public to easily see where implementation is on track and where it is not.

The dashboard's release follows proposals and discussions during this year's state legislative session between advocates, legislators, and leaders from state agencies about how to advance mental health policies and realize the promise of the Georgia Mental Health Parity Act.

> *"For too many Georgians, getting mental health and substance use treatment still depends more on what their insurer allows than on what their doctor recommends. Policymakers, health advocates, and the private sector must work together so every Georgian has access to essential health care and treatment."*
>
> **Whitney Griggs, Director of Health Policy, Georgians for a Healthy Future**

View the Dashboard

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About Georgians for a Healthy Future

Georgians for a Healthy Future collaborates with communities and partners to lead policy change that advances health equity for all Georgians. Our vision is of a day in which all Georgians have equitable opportunities to achieve their highest level of health. We do this by delivering actionable health policy information to policymakers and advocates; providing resources to help consumers become strong advocates, and elevating the consumer experience to inform policy change. Read more at healthyfuturega.org.

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