

AN ACT relating to contracting standards for health care providers.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 304.17A-173 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Any insurer issuing or renewing a health benefit plan issued or renewed on or after July 12, 2006, which provides coverage for services rendered by a physician or osteopath duly licensed under KRS Chapter 311 that are within the scope of practice of an optometrist duly licensed under the provisions of KRS Chapter 320 ***or a chiropractor duly licensed under the provisions of KRS Chapter 312*** shall provide the same reimbursement for services to optometrists ***and chiropractors*** as allowed for those services rendered by physicians or osteopaths.
- (2) An insurer shall not require an optometrist ***or chiropractor*** to meet terms and conditions that are not required of a physician or osteopath as a condition for participation in its provider network for the provision of services that are within the scope of practice of an optometrist ***or chiropractor***.
- (3) The provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall also apply to any agreements an insurer enters into to provide services covered under the health benefit plan.
- (4) An insurer shall not require an optometrist, physician, or osteopath to contract with a vision care plan licensed under Subtitle 17C of KRS Chapter 304 as a condition for participation in the health care network of the insurer to provide covered medical services to its enrollees.