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**SENATOR BARBARA SHARIEF ADVANCES KEY
MANAGED CARE PLAN NETWORK ACCESS BILL**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Senator Barbara Sharief (D–Miramar) has successfully advanced **SB 306, Managed Care Plan Network Access** through the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services with unanimous support.

SB 306 aims to improve healthcare access for Medicaid enrollees by addressing restrictive managed care networks that often lead to long wait times and limited provider availability—especially for rural, low-income, and medically vulnerable populations. The bill requires managed care plans to ensure enrollees have access to services during state holidays and outside of traditional office hours, specifically between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., Monday through Friday. Additionally, the bill mandates that at least 50% of primary care providers within each plan's network must offer appointment availability to Medicaid recipients beyond regular business hours, improving flexibility and reducing barriers to timely care.

*“SB 306 expands access to care while maintaining cost control, preserving the integrity of the managed care structure,” said **Senator Sharief**. “At the same time, it strengthens patient rights and access without disrupting existing systems. It advances health equity by improving care availability in all communities.”*

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