



Ohio Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

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June 9, 2020

The Honorable Scott Lipps
Chair, Committee on Health
Vern Riffe Center, 13th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Re: Support for HB443

Dear Chairman Lipps and members of the Committee on Health,

On behalf of the Ohio Society of Addiction Medicine (OHSAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and clinicians in Ohio who specialize in the treatment of addiction, we would like to take this opportunity to provide our support for HB443, which would increase parity compliance among certain insurers, and decrease barriers to treatment. With the opioid addiction and overdose crisis significantly impacting Ohio, OHSAM appreciates the effort to expand coverage for evidence-based addiction treatment services.

We applaud the improved reporting requirements contained in this bill. This bill would require that certain insurers submit a report and analysis to the superintendent of insurance or the department of medicaid that includes information demonstrating their compliance with federal laws regarding parity in coverage of services for treatment of a mental illness or substance use disorder and coverage of services for treatment of other medical or surgical conditions. This reporting and analysis would include the processes used to develop medical necessity criteria for coverage of services and to develop and apply nonquantitative treatment limitations. Arbitrary limitations on the duration of treatment, medication dosage, or on levels of care, that are not supported by medical evidence, are not appropriate and can be specifically detrimental to the wellbeing of the patient and their community.

Finally, this bill would decrease barriers to care by requiring that FDA-approved medications for addiction treatment (MAT) be placed on the lowest tier of any drug formulary developed and maintained by certain insurers. Furthermore by prohibiting prior authorization and step therapy requirements for access to MAT, this bill would ensure that when a patient presents with a substance use disorder, they are able to receive the care they need.

OHSAM shares the state of Ohio's goal of providing coverage to high-quality, evidence-based, and comprehensive addiction treatment services at parity with medical and surgical benefits, as required by federal law. We offer our support for this bill and strongly recommend the committee favorably report it. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Gregory Boehm at gxboehm24@gmail.com if OHSAM and can be of any service to you. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Gregory Boehm, MD, DFASAM
President, the Ohio Society of Addiction Medicine