



Indiana Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

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January 25, 2024

The Honorable Ryan Mishler
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
200 West Washington Street
Room 431
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: INSAM's Support for SB 3

Dear Chair Mishler,

On behalf of the Indiana Society of Addiction Medicine (INSAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and clinicians in Indiana who specialize in the prevention and treatment of addiction, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important topic. We write today to express our support for SB 3. This legislation would streamline the prior authorization review process in our state, easing the administrative burden that physicians and other practitioners face. Specifically, this legislation would prohibit utilization review entities from imposing prior authorization on Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), among other helpful provisions. In brief, the enactment of SB 3 is critical to ensure that patients in our state receive evidence-based treatment for addiction without outside obstruction.

MOUD is an evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD). Research shows that MOUD improves patient survival, increases retention in treatment, reduces criminal activity among people with addiction and improves patients' ability to gain and maintain employment.¹ However, restrictive utilization management policies such as prior authorization constrain these positive effects. For example, prior authorization can cause delays in obtaining prescriptions, meaning that practitioners cannot offer MOUD as quickly as necessary to effectively stabilize patients. Delays and uncertainty significantly impact patient outcomes.² Truthfully, in addiction treatment, a delay of just one day can be the difference between life and death. As such, the enactment of SB 3 is essential to ensure that MOUD is available to patients as readily as they need.

Ultimately, treatment decisions should be made by patients and their practitioners, rather than subjected to outside pressures. We commend the sponsors of SB 3 for their commitment to enhancing access to life-saving treatment. **In turn, we urge members of the committee to vote to advance this legislation.** If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact cjimenez@cleanslatecenters.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claudie Jimenez". The signature is enclosed within a blue bracket-like shape on the left side.

Claudie Jimenez, MD, MS, FASAM
President, Indiana Society of Addiction Medicine

CC: The Honorable Eric Bassler
The Honorable Liz Brown
The Honorable Justin Busch
The Honorable Ed Charbonneau
The Honorable Michael Crider
The Honorable Aaron Freeman
The Honorable Chris Garten
The Honorable Travis Holdman
The Honorable Jeff Raatz
The Honorable David Niezgodski
The Honorable Fady Qaddoura
The Honorable Lonnie Randolph
The Honorable Shelli Yoder

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. "Medications for Substance Use Disorders." samhsa.gov, 2023. <https://www.samhsa.gov/medications-substance-use-disorders>.

² American Medical Association. "2022 AMA prior authorization (PA) physician survey." ama-assn.org, 2023. <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/prior-authorization-survey.pdf>