



Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

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June 15, 2023

The Honorable Brenda Carter
Chair
Insurance and Financial Services Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
124 N Capitol Ave
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: MISAM's Support for HB 4707

Dear Representative Carter,

On behalf of the Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine (MISAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and clinicians in Michigan who specialize in the prevention, treatment, and recovery from addiction, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important topic. We write today to express our support for HB 4707. This legislation would expand access to evidence-based care by requiring that insurance plans cover a full continuum of services for mental health and substance use disorder (SUD), without prior authorization. Additionally, HB 4707 would adopt a consistent definition for medically necessary mental health and SUD services using the appropriate the level of care placement criteria and practice guidelines set forth in the most recent versions of utilization review criteria and practice guidelines developed by nonprofit professional associations for the relevant clinical specialty. We believe that this important legislation will benefit patients in our state by expanding and ensuring access to quality care for SUD.

Currently, far too few people with SUD receive the treatment services that they need. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 46.3 million people aged 12 or older met the DSM-5 criteria for having a substance use disorder.ⁱ However, 94% of this same group did not receive any treatment in 2021.ⁱⁱ In light of this data, lawmakers must take every step possible to remove barriers to accessing potential life-saving treatment. Utilization management policies, such as prior authorization, serve as a significant barrier to care for many patients. Further, restrictive utilization management policies also impact health outcomes,ⁱⁱⁱ causing disruptions and delays in care for those already in treatment.

HB 4707 precludes prior authorization if treatment services are determined to be medically necessary according to the appropriate the level of care placement criteria and practice guidelines. These criterion and guidelines provide a reliable framework to ensure that coverage decisions are determined by evidence-based standards. These standards will ensure that patients get the right care, in the right place, and at the right time.

MISAM applauds HB 4707 for addressing the appropriate use of medical necessity determinations and the crippling burden of utilization management. **We urge members of the committee to recognize the need for greater access to treatment and favorably report HB 4707.** If there is any further input that we can provide, please do not hesitate to contact

polandc2@msu.edu. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lewei (Allison) Lin, MD, MS
President, Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine



Cara A. Poland, MD, MEd, DFASAM
Advocacy Chair, Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine

CC: The Honorable Mike McFall
The Honorable Mike Harris
The Honorable Kevin Coleman
The Honorable Kelly Breen
The Honorable Julie M. Rogers
The Honorable Helena Scott
The Honorable Stephanie A. Young
The Honorable John Fitzgerald
The Honorable Kristian Grant
The Honorable Gregory Markkanen
The Honorable Robert J. Bezotte
The Honorable Joseph Aragona
The Honorable William Bruck
The Honorable Jerry Neyer
The Honorable Rachelle Smit

ⁱ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (2023). SAMHSA Announces National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) results detailing mental illness and substance use levels in 2021. hhs.org.
<https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/20230104/samhsa-announces-nsduh-results-detailing-mental-illness-substance-use-levels-2021>

ⁱⁱ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (2023). SAMHSA Announces National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) results detailing mental illness and substance use levels in 2021. hhs.org.
<https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/20230104/samhsa-announces-nsduh-results-detailing-mental-illness-substance-use-levels-2021>

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