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Health and Government Operations Committee
Attn: Chair Shane E. Pendergrass

House Bill 611

I am a corporate analyst for a treatment facility, have been in the field for about 4 years, and have seen our clients at an array of different stages. I have also been in long-term recovery and have been for just under 8 years. Through both predominant parts of my life, I have spoken to, helped and lost far too many people. For all the people who lost the battle to addiction, there was always one thing in common, the loss wasn't from the lack of desire, but instead, the lack of willingness. The fear of the unknown, the fear of change, the shame, the guilt, the uncertainty, or the vulnerability all play a part in the level of willingness of the addict, and in the defining moment of accepting help, any form of treatment is better than no form of treatment. The first step must be taken in order to continue down the path of recovery, and for some, that first step is in the form MAT. No one way is best or works for all, but it is essential that all options are on the table, because, again, any treatment is better than no treatment.

I support HB 611, but with amendments that include access to all MAT and that the hub be required to provide inpatient detoxification. These amendments would ensure patient centered care and a pathway for each medication. There is no "one size fits all" approach to addiction treatment, as stated in SAMHSA's Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) 63. This is further reinforced by the ASAM National Practice Guidelines which state that "the choice among available treatment options should be a shared decision between the clinician and the patient."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Huzar

Michelle Huzar
Corporate Analyst
Amatus Recovery Center