



June 18, 2014

ASSOCIATION
FOR BEHAVIORAL
HEALTHCARE

To: ABH Members
Fr: Vic DiGravio, President/CEO
Mandy Gilman, Senior Director of Public Policy & Research

Re: Contact your House members to urge them to pass Addiction Treatment Legislation S2142

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

It's time to ask House members to support addiction treatment legislation which passed the Senate in May. S2142 will dramatically increase access to addiction treatment services for individuals with MassHealth and Commercial Insurance health plans.

Action Requested

Contact your State Representative NOW!

Request a meeting with your Representative.

Write or email your Representative asking them to urge Speaker DeLeo to pass the Addiction Treatment Legislation (S2142) currently in House Ways and Means.

If you are unsure who your State Representative is or need their contact information, click [here](#).

Talking Points

Treatment Works

- Research shows that longer lengths of stay in addiction treatment produce better outcomes. Requiring insurance plans to cover longer lengths of stay for medically necessary services makes sense.
- Addiction is a chronic brain disease and relapse is expected. Relapse is common for many other chronic illnesses, and relapse rates for drug-addicted patients are similar to those suffering from diabetes, hypertension, and asthma.
- Department of Public Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (DPH/BSAS) data clearly indicates that a longer length of stay in CSS is positively correlated to better outcomes and successful placement into a longer-term, state-funded, residential service.

Key Components of the Bill

- Removes prior authorization for detox (ATS) for all MassHealth Managed Care Entities and requires coverage of up to 15 days of step-down detox (CSS);
- Removes prior authorization for detox & step-down detox services for commercial insurers and requires coverage for a total of up to 21 days before engaging in utilization management activities;
- Requires all insurance carriers to reimburse for substance abuse treatment services delivered by a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

Addiction Facts

- 3.1% of all people aged 12 or older in Massachusetts (about 173,000 persons) reported being dependent on misusing illicit drugs within the prior year and only 14.1% of those individuals received any type of treatment.
- Both privately insured and Medicaid covered individuals with opioid abuse, dependence, and misuse have higher annual health care costs than similar patients without such diagnoses (\$20,546 per commercial patient and \$15,183 per Medicaid patient).
- It is estimated the societal costs of opioid abuse in the U.S. total about \$55.7 billion. These costs decrease dramatically when individuals are engaged in addiction treatment and are on the path to recovery.