

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Insurance  
For HB 5230

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Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 8:00 AM

Andrew Giannotti, Dr.  
Texas Society of Addiction Medicine  
Houston, TX

Members of the House Insurance Committee,

On behalf of the Texas Society of Addiction Medicine (TSAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and other clinicians specializing in the prevention and treatment of addiction, I write to express our support for HB 5230. This important legislation would place limitations on the forms of prior authorization that insurers (including Medicaid) can place on FDA-approved medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), expanding the accessibility of this vital treatment for patients.

FDA-approved MOUD are evidence-based treatments. MOUD is proven to improve health outcomes for patients with opioid use disorder, including increased treatment retention, reduced criminal activity, and improved workforce participation.[i] However, utilization management policies, such as prior authorization, can limit these positive effects. Prior authorization leads to unnecessary delays in care. For example, prior authorization causes delays in obtaining prescriptions for MOUD, meaning that practitioners cannot offer treatment as quickly as necessary to effectively stabilize their patients. Delays and uncertainty of this nature significantly impact patient outcomes.[ii] Truthfully, in our field of addiction treatment, a delay of just one day can be the difference between the life and death of a patient.

Our organization commends the sponsors of HB 5230 for taking policy steps to support patients and addiction treatment providers in our state. We are pleased that lawmakers are realizing that enhancing access to FDA-approved MOUD is crucial to addressing the ongoing overdose epidemic. As such, we urge the committee to advance HB 5230 and support its enactment moving forward. Please contact me at [info@texasrecovery.net](mailto:info@texasrecovery.net) or (832) 477-5834 if there is any further assistance that our organization can provide.