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April 24, 2017

The Honorable Representative Paul Lundeen  
Colorado State House of Representatives  
200 East Colfax  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Representative Lundeen and Fellow Representatives:

The Colorado Psychiatric Society supports SB 17-082, Regulation of Methadone Treatment Facilities based on the "strike below" amendment adopted by the Senate and respectfully requests legislators to support the amended bill.

The amended bill keeps the regulation of methadone treatment facilities in the Colorado Department of Human Services and adds language that provides greater transparency surrounding methadone clinics to the public, as well as clients of such clinics by requiring the posting of information on a public website that includes the location or locations where the program is operated and hours of operation, as well as program contact information, such as a phone number and email address.

The bill requires that the Department of Human Services prepare an annual report that includes information concerning the treatment providers licensed to provide treatment for substance use disorders, including the entity's name, location and contact information, as well as other licensing information. That requirement is repealed on September 1, 2019.

A fingerprint based criminal history background check on initial licensure is required for the owner or chief executive officer of the applicant entity. There are currently 14 licensed methadone treatment clinics in the state and an average of four infractions per year over the last three years have occurred. This bill provides greater transparency for the public, as well as information for persons who wish to use the facilities. We urge you to support SB 17-082.

Sincerely,

*E. Lowdermilk, MD*

Elizabeth Lowdermilk, MD  
President, Colorado Psychiatric Society

Cc:

Debbie Wagner, CPS Lobbyist  
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