

House Health & Human Services

02/20/2024 Upon Adjournment

HB24-1045 Treatment for Substance Use Disorders

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Jeremiah Kaplan For themselves</p>	<p>I'm writing as a physician who provides medical services at the Boulder County Jail. I have seen firsthand how the Jail provides Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) to people with opioid use disorder who are incarcerated. Prior to the Jail MAT program, I helped manage opioid withdrawal there. The Jail initiated the MAT program due to the increased risk of death by overdose after release for people who went through withdrawal and then resumed using opioids. This risk has increased with the introduction of increasingly potent opioids like fentanyl into the illicit drug supply.</p> <p>I commend the bill authors on proposing Medicaid funding for 90 days of MAT prior to release. This should be preserved in the bill. It will save lives, increase community treatment, and free up needed resources for jails to address other pressing issues.</p>
<p>Trina Faatz For Boulder County Public Health</p>	<p>Dear Committee members and Chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee.</p> <p>Thank you for taking time to read this testimony. I am in favor of approving HB 1045 and represent myself as a community member with lived experience. I also am the facilitator of the Boulder County Substance Use Advisory Group (SUAG) but do not represent the County here. The SUAG is a large (over 250 members) shared leadership coalition of participants representing all areas within the county of Substance Use and destigmatizing SUD and the prevention of Overdoses. I am the mother of a young adult who struggled with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) for 5 years and almost died on several occasions. Her recovery was secured by our amazing and accessible harm reduction program The Works, and our community based Medication Assisted Treatment programs (MAT). But, she had the support of family and was given chances and these were accessible for her which are not available to most. These saved her life, and gave her an opportunity to serve her community. She is now an addiction counselor, Certified Addiction Specialist and Brain Spotting Trauma Therapist.</p>

	<p>I feel this Bill requires approval so as to better serve and offer treatment programs to our communities for better access, options, and affordability to services.</p> <p>I support Sections 11- 16 to expand the medication-assisted funding for pharmacies and pharmacists who are authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer MAT to be able to do so. This was successfully implemented in RI successfully bringing access to treatment for individuals struggling with an OUD and desiring treatment. This is especially critical in more rural areas where folks have difficulty accessing an out patient treatment program especially on a daily basis.</p> <p>I also highly support Section 17 as a critical component to treatment and case management to ensure success in recovery for those incarcerated. We see too many folks without any follow up or medication compliance after release due to the inability to access their medications in a timely way or be followed for support and care. This leads to relapse and often overdose death.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to testify. Please do not hesitate to reply or reach out with any questions of us.</p> <p>Trina Faatz, Peer and Family Specialist; Peer Recovery Coach; Acudetox Specialist.</p>
<p>Arnold Hanuman Amend Colorado District Attorneys' Council (CDAC)</p>	<p>Seeking Amendment to remove Sections 9 and 10 as overly proscriptive on current DA Diversion Programs.</p>