

Desiree Mountain
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Westminster, MD 21158

2/26/2020

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

House Bill 611

I am a Senior Compliance Officer for Amatus Health and an addict in recovery myself. In the 7 years I've been in recovery, I have seen and heard many stories of people having start on their recovery journey by being introduced to Vivitrol medications. My own brother started his recovery journey on Vivitrol and just celebrated 6 years clean and sober no longer needing the medication. As a Compliance Officer who oversees compliance for 13 different substance abuse treatment facilities – I have seen just how valuable Vivitrol truly is and how it absolutely saves lives. I have seen Suboxone more abused by addicts as opposed to Vivitrol. I do believe everyone deserves a chance at life and lets continue to save lives with Vivitrol.

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,

Signature

Desiree Mountain
Senior Compliance Officer
Amatus Health