



Brandee Izquierdo
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February 27, 2020

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

House Bill 611

I am a Maryland resident and an individual in long-term recovery who has led advocacy efforts to expand access to behavioral health services and recovery support services nationwide. I provide technical assistance both nationally and internationally, empowering others within the recovery movement. My drive and determination are built on making an impact within behavioral health, promoting long-term recovery, and ensuring communities are educated and have the tools necessary to combat the addiction epidemic. Before leading the SAFE Project team, I worked for Faces and Voices of Recovery as the Director of Advocacy and Outreach. In addition, I served as the Associate Director of Special Populations with Behavioral Health System Baltimore and as the Director of Consumer Affairs for the state of Maryland's Behavioral Health Administration.

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,

Brandee Izquierdo
Executive Director
SAFE Project US