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Health and Government  
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Rules and Executive  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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**Testimony in Support of  
House Bill 578: Maryland Medical Assistance Programs - Prior Authorization for Drug  
Products to Treat an Opioid Use Disorder - Prohibition  
February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Madam Chair Pendergrass and esteemed members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, it is my pleasure to come before you and offer testimony in favor of **House Bill 578: Maryland Medical Assistance Programs - Prior Authorization for Drug Products to Treat an Opioid Use Disorder - Prohibition**. This bill mirrors a 2017 law that prohibited prior authorizations for medications for opioid use disorder in private insurance plans. This bill extends that prohibition for those enrolled in Maryland's public insurance program, and only for medications used in addiction treatment.

Opioid use and opioid deaths continue to be a public health crisis here in Maryland and across the nation. Treatment works and we must ensure that all Marylanders have a real opportunity to get proper treatment. There is medical evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone to treat opioid use disorder. But the need for prior authorizations of these drugs can slow down that treatment.

Many are calling for the removal of prior authorizations for these medications, and we should do the same for Marylanders in need. There is no time to wait to ensure that all Marylanders with an opioid use disorder are treated timely and effectively.

I urge a favorable report on **House Bill 578**. Thank you.