



Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

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April 19, 2021

The Honorable Emanuel Chris Welch
Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives
301 South Second Street
Capitol Building, Room 300
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Support for HB2595

Dear Speaker Welch,

On behalf of the Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and clinicians in Illinois who specialize in the prevention and treatment of addiction, we would like to take this opportunity to provide our support for HB2595, which would ensure that insurers in Illinois cover medically necessary addiction treatment.

HB2595 is an opportunity for Illinois to continue its tradition as a national leader in insurance regulation and access to addiction treatment services. The bill would require that insurers use *The ASAM Criteria* when conducting utilization review and medical necessity determinations for addiction treatment. Furthermore, this bill would require that insurers sponsor education on the use of *The ASAM Criteria*. Proper use of *the ASAM Criteria* will help improve patient health outcomes and help decrease inappropriate utilization of higher intensity services, saving both lives and taxpayer dollars. Additionally, by requiring that insurers annually report information to the Department of Insurance, and by empowering the Department of Insurance to levy fines against insurers who violate the provisions of the bill, this legislation ensures that the Department of Insurance will have the information and enforcement power necessary to ensure compliance.

ISAM applauds the introduction of this legislation and believes that it will improve public health in the state. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. David C. Lott at davidclott@gmail.com, or at (630) 730-5506 if ISAM can be of any service to you.

Sincerely,

David C. Lott, MD, DFASAM
President, Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine