



Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

June 16, 2021

OFFICERS

President

Timothy Gammons, DO, FASAM

Immediate Past-President

Cara A. Poland, MD, MEd, DFASAM

Treasurer

Ismael D. Yanga, MD, FASAM

Secretary

John A. Hopper, MD, DFASAM, FAAP, FACP

The Honorable Curt VanderWall
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Policy and Human Services
124 West Allegan Street Senate Hearing Room, Ground Floor
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Support for SB436

Dear Chair VanderWall and members of the Senate Committee on Health Policy and Human Services,

On behalf of the Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine (MISAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and other clinicians in Michigan who specialize in the prevention and treatment of addiction, I would like to take this opportunity to provide our support for SB436, which would allow a county medical examiner or county health officer to establish a drug-fatality review team. With opioid-involved deaths surging in Michigan, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic,ⁱ it is critical that the legislature take all possible steps to learn more about how this crisis is impacting people across the state.

Drug-fatality review teams will empower policymakers and health professionals in Michigan with additional information they can use to formulate policy and combat the addiction crisis in the state. While MISAM supports this legislation, there is room for improvement. Specifically, this legislation should be amended to list board-certified addiction medicine specialists as a group that is permitted to participate in the drug-fatality review team. Addiction medicine specialists are uniquely trained to understand the disease of addiction, and their inclusion on a drug-fatality review team will bring an invaluable perspective that is otherwise missing from these teams as currently conceived by this legislation.

MISAM appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this legislation and stands ready to work with you and all interested stakeholders to combat the state's addiction crisis and save lives. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact MISAM's president, Dr. Timothy Gammons, at (248) 515-0012 or at drgammons@gammonsmedical.com.

Sincerely,

Timothy Gammons, DO, FASAM
President, Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine

CC:

The Honorable John Bizon

The Honorable Winnie Brinks

The Honorable Ruth Johnson

The Honorable Kim LaSata

The Honorable Michael MacDonald

The Honorable Lana Theis

The Honorable Curtis Hertel

The Honorable Sylvia Santana

The Honorable Paul Wojno

ⁱ American Medical Association. (2020). "Issue brief: Reports of increases in opioid- and other drug-related overdose and other concerns during COVID pandemic." Available at: <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-12/issue-brief-increases-in-opioid-related-overdose.pdf8>