



Dear Legislators,XXX,

Mental Health Colorado strongly supports SB 20-007, Treatment for Substance Use Disorders.

This bill comes out of the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee. We respectfully ask for your yes vote.

Mental Health Colorado is especially supportive of section 1, which requires private carriers to use the American Society for Addition Medicine (ASAM) criteria or a standard set of criteria determined by the Commissioner.

ASAM criteria are evidence-based, with 23 peer-reviewed studies supporting them. These criteria are appropriate and effective for a wide spectrum of substance use disorders, including for individuals with co-occurring substance use disorder and mental health conditions.

ASAM proposes person-centered treatment, focusing on holistic care with the understanding that a substance use disorder is a disease that must be treated with a multi-dimensional approach and a comprehensive continuum of care.

Mental Health Colorado also supports the consolidation of the substance use emergency and involuntary commitment laws outlined in sections 18-65 of the bill. Specifically, we believe the inclusion of patients' rights in statute is long overdue for individuals who experience an emergency or involuntary substance use commitment.

Finally, we are supportive of individuals who are receiving medication assisted treatment to be able to access recovery residence treatments, services through a manage service organization, and/or court ordered or problem solving court programs without having to give up the medication assisted program they are currently in.

Please vote yes on SB 20-007.

Sincerely,
Moe Keller
Mental Health Colorado
303-478-6757