

Chairperson Robert Craven
House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

2024-HB 7451

SUPPORT

March 5, 2024

Dear Chairperson Craven:

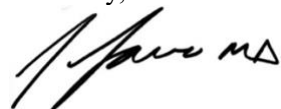
I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (RIACEP) to advocate for the passage of crucial legislation regarding Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for individuals within the correctional system. Rhode Island has long been a pioneer in this field, setting an example for the rest of the nation to follow. By offering all three forms of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) – buprenorphine, methadone, and extended-release naltrexone – in conjunction with counseling, Rhode Island has shown a commitment to evidence-based practices that prioritize the health and well-being of incarcerated individuals.

As highlighted in "A Review of in United States Jails and Prisons,"ⁱ MAT, particularly the use of buprenorphine, is widely recognized as the gold standard of care for addressing opioid use disorder (OUD) in the community. Its efficacy in reducing opiate withdrawal, curbing cravings, and supporting positive health outcomes is well-documented. Moreover, MAT has been shown to have significant benefits in terms of behavioral health and criminal justice outcomes, including reductions in overdose deaths and recidivism rates.

Given these compelling findings and the national attention garnered by the success of MAT programs in correctional settings, I urge you and your committee members to act favorably on this important legislation. By expanding access to MAT within our correctional facilities, we can not only improve the health and well-being of incarcerated individuals but also contribute to safer communities and reduce the burden on our criminal justice system.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I am confident that your support for this legislation will make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless individuals and families affected by opioid use disorder.

Sincerely,



Joseph Lauro, MD
President

ⁱ <https://cchcs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/MAT-in-United-States-Jails-and-Prisons-Final.pdf>