

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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March 5, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr., Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2024 – H 7451 – An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government -- Corrections Department

Dear Chair Craven:

I write to express our general support and identify some concerns regarding **H 7451** which would establish a program within the adult correctional institution to permit medication assisted treatment approved by the FDA to be provided for the treatment of opioid use disorder to any incarcerated individual.

Buprenorphine may be dispensed as proposed; however BHDDH requests the following amendments concerning methadone to align with federal dispensing regulations.

- Page 2 line 2: after “authorized” add “and approved by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services administration (SAMSHA), and the State Opioid Treatment authority”
- Page 2 Line 17 & 18: Recommend striking line 17 & 18 to protect 42 CFR Part II which is applicable once discharged from prison. (Note: if an incarcerated person has a prescription, it is not illegal or illicit use)

I strongly support efforts to provide medication-assisted treatment within the ACI. BHDDH would be happy to work with the sponsors and our colleagues in the Department of Corrections to ensure that treatment protocols are evidence-based and consistent with federal statutes and regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louis A. Cerbo".

Louis A. Cerbo, Ed.D.
Interim Director

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy