

To: Members, House Health Policy Committee  
From: Adam Carlson, Vice President, Advocacy  
Date: Sept. 30, 2021  
Re: House Bill 5163  
Position: Support

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The Michigan Health & Hospital Association supports House Bill (HB) 5163, sponsored by Rep. Angela Witwer (D-Delta Twp). This bill provides start-up grant funding for hospitals to implement an emergency department-based medication-assisted treatment (MAT) program if the facility treats annually 50 or more emergency patients with an opioid-related overdose. The grant funding program has the potential to significantly expand MAT programs in hospital emergency departments which can initiate treatment for individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD).

MAT programs have proven to treat substance use disorders, sustain recovery and prevent overdose. These clinically driven programs combine medication and behavioral therapy to treat both the physical and mental components of an OUD patient. The flexibility available allows hospitals to best meet individual patient needs and increase the recovery rate.

The MHA and member hospitals know firsthand how misuse of prescription drugs reached epidemic proportions for patients over the last decade. However, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted and intensified the existing issue. Many individuals struggling with mental health challenges turned to harmful coping mechanisms such as drug use to deal with the stress, anxiety and loss associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Hospital emergency department MAT programs can provide an integral first step for patients battling with OUD and work to connect them to longer-term community-based care where they receive MAT on an ongoing basis.

Michigan hospitals remain committed to working with lawmakers and the administration while ensuring patients receive the most appropriate care and treatment for their individual healthcare needs related to OUD. Please contact Adam Carlson ([acarlson@mha.org](mailto:acarlson@mha.org)) at (517) 703-8601 at the MHA if you have further questions regarding the MHA's position.

**Brian Peters**, *Chief Executive Officer*