



**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
S.6674 Amedore/A.7979A Quart**

***Prohibits certain insurance policies from requiring prior authorization
for certain medications used in the treatment of substance use disorders***

The NYS Council, representing 100 behavioral health (mental health and substance use disorder) prevention, treatment, and recovery organizations across New York, **supports this legislation, S.6674 Amedore/A.7979A Quart**, to amend the insurance law, in relation to prohibiting certain insurance policies from requiring prior authorization for certain medications used in the treatment of substance use disorders.

This bill would prohibit certain insurance policies from requiring prior authorization for initial and renewal prescriptions for buprenorphine, methadone or long acting injectable naltrexone for the treatment of substance abuse disorders. The purpose is to “ensure uniformity across all health insurance plan policies regarding reasonable patient access to medication assisted treatment for substance abuse disorders.”

The opioid crisis has ravaged communities across New York State with an increase in death rates due to opioid and heroin addiction that outpaces almost any other state where data is available. Unnecessary burdens placed upon consumers make it even more difficult for them to get the substance abuse treatment, including medication-assisted treatment that they need. Improving access to health insurance coverage for treatment without having to obtain prior authorization, and be delayed, could be the difference between saving a life or not.

The members of the NYS Council are fully invested in, and dedicated to, the recovery of our clients as well as their families and loved ones. Therefore we know that time is of the essence when it comes to substance abuse treatment. We support this legislation to ensure our communities receive the quality care they need at the exact time they need it. **For these reasons, the NYS Council urges enactment of S.6674 Amedore/A.7979A Quart this session.**

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