Dear Senator Lyons and Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee,

We'd like to ask for a technical amendment to H.222 to include language in (3) to align with federal requirements and product labeling. I see this bill is coming up on your calendar this Thursday. We were late to bring this to the attention of Representative Wood and members of the House Health and Welfare Committee, so we agreed to bring this fix to the Senate.

Suggestion:
(3) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, a health insurance or other health benefit plan offered by an insurer or by a pharmacy benefit manager on behalf of a health insurer that provides coverage for prescription drugs shall not utilize a step-therapy, "fail first," or other protocol that requires documented trials of a medication, including a trial documented through a "MedWatch" (FDA Form 3500), before approving a prescription for the treatment of substance use disorder unless required by the FDA or by the product labelling.

As an example, Sublocade does require a "step through" oral buprenorphine or combo product.

Thank you for considering this technical correction to H.222.
Sara

Sara Teachout (she/her/hers)
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