

**TO:** House Committee on Corrections and Institutions  
**FROM:** Jack McCullough  
**SUBJECT:** H. 468--Medication-Assisted Treatment  
**DATE:** April 12, 2017

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Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with the committee.

The Mental Health Law Project supports this proposal. We are living in a time when substance abuse is a major contributor to incarceration; family, residential, educational, and occupational disruption; and other serious public health failures. We have long believed that an essential element of combating the addiction problem is to provide withdrawal and other treatment to all drug dependent persons without delay whenever it is requested. The Department of Corrections should provide treatment to enable all incarcerated persons to safely detox and withdraw from opioids, and to make and continue progress to drug-free living.