



Heroin, Opioid Prevention and Education

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

To: All Legislators

From: Representative John Nygren

Senator Patrick Testin

Re: Co-sponsorship of LRB-2886 and LRB-4816: Reimbursement for peer recovery coach services under the Medical Assistance program and coordination and continuation of care following an overdose.

DEADLINE: November 12th, 2019

This bill requires the Department of Health Services to provide as a benefit and reimburse peer recovery coach services under the Medical Assistance program. A “peer recovery coach,” as defined in the bill, is an individual who practices in the recovery field and who provides support and assistance to individuals who are in treatment or recovery from mental illness or a substance use disorder.

An article from the [Recovery Research Institute](#) states that: research has pointed to the effectiveness of recovery coaches as both an [aid to recovery](#) and as a method to reduce overall healthcare costs.

The bill also requires DHS to establish and maintain a program to facilitate overdose treatment providers to do all of the following: use peer recovery coaches to encourage individuals to seek treatment for a substance use disorder following an overdose, provide access to medications to reverse an overdose, coordinate and continue care and treatment of individuals after an overdose, provide education to patients and families on preventing and reversing an overdose, provide follow-up services for patients after an overdose to ensure continued recovery and connection to support services, and collect and evaluate outcomes data on patients receiving peer recovery coach services and coordination and continuation of care services.

DHS is required under the bill to seek any funding available from the federal government, including grant funding under the federal SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, to establish and maintain the program or establish the policies and procedures.

Please respond to this email or contact [Chris](#) in Rep. Nygren’s office or Matt in Senator Testin’ office.