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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff
DATE: July 3, 2024
RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HB 4707

Council President Pro-Tem James Tate requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HB 4707.

Attached, please find our draft of the aforementioned resolution.

Attachment

- WHEREAS,** The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit’s citizens through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and
- WHEREAS,** According to the National Institute of Mental Health, many individuals who develop substance use disorders (SUD) are also diagnosed with mental disorders, and vice versa. However, though some individuals may have both a SUD and a mental disorder, that does not mean that one caused the other; and
- WHEREAS,** Regardless of the cause, the issues associated with SUDs and mental disorders are both challenges in our community and they desperately need to be addressed. Unfortunately, Blacks receive inadequate and less than culturally sensitive care, resulting in more severe, chronic, and untreated mental health disorders. Additionally, when it comes to healthcare for SUDs, access to quality care for Black Americans is deficient as well; and
- WHEREAS,** Compounding factors of stress, such as generational trauma stemming from racism and the vestiges of slavery, and mass violence against Black people create stressors that would be challenging for any individual to process. The landscape of mental health in Black America is tainted by centuries of systematic oppression, which require a multi-system approach to improve trust in medicine and increase access to quality mental healthcare; and
- WHEREAS,** Currently, section 3425 of the (Michigan) Insurance Code (PA 218 of 1956) only requires insurers that deliver, issue for delivery, or renew a health insurance policy in the state to provide coverage for both intermediate and outpatient care for substance use disorder. Michigan House Bill 4707 (HB 4707), if passed as submitted, would amend section 3425 of the (Michigan) Insurance Code (PA 218 of 1956), to require health insurers in Michigan to provide coverage for medically necessary treatment of a mental health or substance abuse disorder; and
- WHEREAS,** Medically necessary treatment of a mental health or substance abuse disorder would mean a service or product addressing the specific needs of a patient for the purpose of screening, preventing, diagnosing, managing, or treating an illness, injury, condition, or its symptoms, including minimizing its progression, in a manner that meets all of the following:
- It is in accordance with the generally accepted standards of mental health and substance use disorder care
 - It is clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration.
 - It is not primarily for the economic benefit of the insurer or purchaser or for the convenience of the patient, treating physician, or other health care provider; and
- WHEREAS,** The bill would also amend section 2212e of the code, to provide that the prior authorization of medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders is subject to section 3425 (the primary section amended by the bill). Criteria and guidelines outside the scope of the nonprofit professional association criteria, including criteria described in section 2212e of the code, could be used if the criteria are fully consistent with current generally accepted standards of mental health and substance use disorder. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council urges the Michigan Legislature to support House Bill 4707, which would amend the Insurance Code to require health insurers in Michigan to provide coverage for medically necessary treatment of a mental health or substance abuse disorder. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Detroit delegation in the State Senate and State House, Mayor Mike Duggan and Governor Whitmer.