

- **MORE THAN 100 AMERICANS DIE OF OPIATE OVERDOSE EVERY DAY.**
 - **338 DIED IN NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COUNTY IN 2012.**
- **NEW YORK LOST 1,909 PEOPLE IN 2007 AND THIS NUMBER INCREASES SIGNIFICANTLY EACH YEAR.**

A7003 ~ S4623 ACCESS TO CARE BILL

INSURANCE COMPANIES ARE NOT ALLOWING YOUR CONSTITUENTS TO ACCESS THE MANDATED HEALTH CARE BENEFITS YOU FOUGHT SO HARD TO PROVIDE!! THIS IS NOT OK!

LETS GET THIS BILL LOOKED AT, OUT OF COMMITTEE, BROUGHT TO A VOTE AND PASSED!

ALL THE BILL ASKS FOR IS THAT THE QUALIFIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WHO HAS FACE TO FACE CONTACT WITH THE PATIENT CERTIFY MEDICAL NECESSITY AND LEVEL OF CARE NECESSARY.

CURRENTLY, A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL AT THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE, OFTEN OUT OF STATE, MAKES DECISIONS BASED ON PROPRIETARY CRITERIA THAT IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT MEDICAL (ASAM) STANDARDS.

THIS IS NOT DONE FOR SIMILAR CHRONIC DISEASES SUCH AS DIABETES, CROHNS, OR HEART DISEASE.

- 80% OF HEROIN USE BEGINS WITH USE OF PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS. PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING OF AN OPIATE HABIT THAT LEADS TO HEROIN, WHICH IS CHEAPER.
- COMMERCIAL INSURANCE NO LONGER PAYS FOR OPIATE DETOXIFICATION WITHIN AN INPATIENT SETTING. HOWEVER, INSURANCE DOES NOT PAY FOR OUTPATIENT DETOXIFICATION WITH SUBOXONE IN A PRIMARY CARE SETTING. THE PATIENT HAS TO PAY UPWARDS OF \$500-\$1000 FOR INDUCTION ON TO SUBOXONE. THIS IS UNFAIR COST SHIFTING TO THE PATIENT WHEN THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY MANDATES 7 DAYS INPATIENT DETOX. IF THE PATIENT GOES TO METHADONE MAINTENANCE, THIS IS UNFAIR COST SHIFTING TO TAXPAYER DOLLARS.
- THE LENGTH OF STAY AT OASAS FUNDED AND OPERATED INPATIENT ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER AT ST. LAWRENCE, IS CLINICALLY DRIVEN AND AVERAGES 25 DAYS. THE LENGTH OF STAY AT A REHABILITATION CENTER WHEN PAID FOR BY COMMERCIAL INSURANCE IS 7-11 DAYS DEPENDING ON WHAT AREA OF THE STATE. *WHY WOULD COMMERCIAL INSURANCE FIND MEDICAL NECESSITY TO BE LESS THAN HALF OF WHAT NYS FINDS TO BE MEDICALLY NECESSARY?*
- IN ORDER TO OBTAIN TREATMENT FOR THEIR CHILDREN, FAMILIES IN NEW YORK ARE PUTTING THEIR CHILD ON MEDICAID SO THEY CAN OBTAIN INPATIENT TREATMENT.

COMMERCIAL HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES ARE COST SHIFTING ADDICTION TREATMENT TO THE STATE, WHEN THE STATE IS SUPPOSED TO BE PAYOR OF LAST RESORT.

UNITED HEALTH CARE HAD A NET INCOME OF 5.1BILLION IN 2012, UP 11% FROM 2011. HOW MUCH OF THIS IS ON THE BACK OF NYS?

