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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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August 15, 2023

Katie Merritt
Director of Policy and Planning
Office of Insurance Commissioner
1326 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Director Merritt:

I write today to urge you to add expanded coverage of medication assisted treatment (MAT) to Pennsylvania's essential health benefits (EHB) package.

Under the Affordable Care Act, individual and small group (50 or fewer employees) health insurance policies must cover the ten categories of EHBs. Each state can select a benchmark plan to describe what specific benefits must be included in each EHB category.

Pennsylvania is behind the times. We have not updated our benchmark plan since 2017. The Insurance Department's reevaluation of Pennsylvania's EHB package shows the department's commitment to ensuring consumers get the care they need, when they need it.

Many Pennsylvanians need MAT to manage their substance use disorder. And while Act 146 of 2022 requires some coverage of MAT, I believe all forms of MAT should be covered by health insurance. That's why I introduced House Bill 869. But the legislative process takes time. And the Insurance Department, by updating Pennsylvania's EHB package, can ensure coverage of this service in individual and small group policies.

Thus, I urge you to ensure expanded coverage of MAT, as contemplated in my House Bill 869, is included in any update to Pennsylvania's EHB package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan K. Williams".

Dan Williams
State Representative
74th Legislative District