**Providing Tools to Enforce Existing Law on**

**Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Parity**

SUPPORT HB68, HAM1 –

Amendments to the Heroin Crisis Act (Lang)

**HB68 Improves Enforcement of Existing Law**

*Provides clarity and specificity*

* Updates unclear definitions in current law
* Clarifies state agencies’ jurisdictions and application of existing law to individual and marketplace plans (already required under federal law)
* Clarifies that all MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) medical necessity determinations, just as other substance use disorder treatments, must comply with the American Society of Addiction Medicine Practice Guidelines

*Requires transparency*

* Specifies information that plans must report to ensure compliance
* Specifies information to be included in annual report to the General Assembly

*Ensures accountability*

* Specifies how the respective agencies are expected to enforce the law
* Provides a mechanism by which IDOI and DHFS may request formal opinion of the Attorney General on the interpretation, implementation, or enforcement of the law
* Allows consumers and providers to pursue causes of action against the plan or issuer of the policy for mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) parity violations

**Why HB68 is Needed**

* *Inadequate Networks of MH/SUD Providers*
* *Higher Out-of-Pocket Costs for MH/SUD conditions*
* *More Frequent Denials for MH/SUD Than Other Medical Services*
* *Consumers Kept in the Dark without Transparency*
* *Enforcement Makes a Difference (NY increased coverage with stronger enforcement)*
* *Based on Expert Recommendations (SAMHSA and IDOI working group)*

**Who Supports HB68**

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Community Behavioral Healthcare Association

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance

Family Guidance Centers

Gateway Foundation

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

IARF

Illinois Association for Behavioral Health

Illinois Collaboration on Youth

Illinois Health and Hospital Association

Illinois Psychiatric Society

Illinois Psychological Association

Illinois State Medical Society

MADO Healthcare

NAMI Barrington Area

NAMI Chicago

NAMI Illinois

Rosecrance

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

The Kennedy Forum

Thresholds

**Additional resources**

* Parity Track <https://www.paritytrack.org/>
* Federal Task Force Report <https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/advisory-committees/parity/>
* Parity Complaint Registry and Appeal Resource http://parityregistry.org
* NAMI Parity Survey <http://www.nami.org/About-NAMI/Publications-Reports/Public-Policy-Reports/Mental-Health-Parity-Network-Adequacy-Findings-/Mental_Health_Parity2016.pdf>