Insert your name

Insert your address

Insert your City, State Zip Code

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Insert Senator or Assembly Member First and Last Name

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1268 (Bradford): Support

Dear Insert Senator/Assemblymember Last name,

As a professional who works treating addiction in your district, I would like to convey my support of Senate Bill 1268 to prohibit patient brokering in the alcohol drug addiction treatment system and ending dangerous “pay to patient” practices that put those in early recovery at risk. I can attest to the destructive nature that “kickbacks” and unscrupulous financial agreements between treatment providers and referrers have on the safety of patients and the integrity of the payment system in California.

Senate Bill 1268 is an important part of the California Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act (CCARA) which aims to revolutionize the state’s addiction treatment system and make it model for the nation to follow. Ending the practice of “selling” patients to treatment centers that pass kickbacks back to insurers is vital to reform in the state. The inability to prohibit patient brokering has led to unscrupulous financial relationships between treatment providers and referring agents. Notably, patient brokers are not credentialed professionals and may have little or no competency in identifying or assessing addiction. As a result, referrals are made based upon financial incentive rather than client benefit. Senate Bill 1268 will end this resource draining practice and return integrity to the payment system.

In addition to significant reform in referral practices Senate Bill 1268 eliminates direct payment to addiction patients for treatment services received under out of network agreements with insurers. Direct payment to patients for medical care has obvious financial implications for all insurers and enrollees. However, direct payment to individuals in early recovery can have dramatic impacts, including relapse, or even death by overdose encouraged by ready access to otherwise unavailable cash. Senate Bill 1268 will literally save lives in California.

Please cast your “aye” vote for Senate Bill 1268.

Sincerely,

Insert signature or s/your first and last name

Insert name

Insert title