



We would like to thank the HOPE Caucus for an opportunity to provide written comment as a follow up to our testimony on May 24th, 2017. We are grateful to be a part of a Recovery Community Organization, The RASE Project, which empowers individuals with a Substance Use Disorder to find a process called recovery. We know that the disease of addiction is one that an individual can recover from. Recovery involves multiple pathways and it varies from one individual to another. What works for one person, may not work for another person. That is why it is so important that access to treatment and recovery services be available to anyone suffering from a Substance Use Disorder.

The RASE Project has been able to expand many of their Recovery Services and add new ones because of Medicaid Expansion. We have been fortunate to expand our Buprenorphine Coordination and Vivitrol Coordination Programs. Both programs involve the use of medication to assist an individual in their recovery process. Recovery Specialists in each program monitor an individual's recovery process through recovery planning, recovery groups, random urine drug screens and random medication counts. We urge you to include Recovery Community Organizations in addition to Licensed Treatment Centers in regards to HB 932.

Some of the other programs we have been able to provide because of Medicaid Expansion include The Cumberland County Prison Vivitrol Program, Warm Handoff Programs in York, Adams and Lancaster Counties, and The Door to Door Prison Project in Lancaster County. These programs involve the use of Certified Recovery Specialists intervening in prison or after a Narcan Reversals to assist the individual in finding recovery. It would be gravely detrimental to our communities if these programs were to lose their funding as a result of individuals losing their Medicaid coverage.

Finally, we are asking that you carefully review HB 218. This proposal eliminates funding for several criminal justice programs. Some of the programs affected would be Adult and Juvenile Probation as well as Inpatient Treatment Programs. We will need adequate resources to monitor individuals who are in the criminal justice system, and help them return to the community as productive members of society. We strongly believe these programs are essential to our community as we strive to make a shift from incarceration of individuals with a Substance Use Disorder to treatment and recovery from their disease.

Thank you for your time,

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With regards,