

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 33-18

INTRODUCED BY: MedChi's Public Health Committee  
Baltimore City Medical Society

SUBJECT: Medication-Assisted Treatment in Prisons

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1 Whereas, Medication-Assisted Treatment<sup>1</sup>(MAT) is the use of medications, in combination with counseling and  
2 behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole-patient” approach to be treatment of substance use disorders; and

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4 Whereas, research shows that a combination of medication and therapy can successfully treat these disorders; and

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6 Whereas, for some people struggling with addiction, MAT can help sustain recovery; and

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8 Whereas, MAT is primarily used for the treatment of addiction to opioids, such as heroin and prescription pain  
9 relievers that contain opiates; and

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11 Whereas, the medications used in MAT are approved by the Food and Drug Administration; and

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13 Whereas, MAT programs are clinically driven and tailored to meet each patient's needs; and

14  
15 Whereas, the number of individuals potentially in need of MAT is estimated to be 24,887<sup>2</sup> opioid users, 18,916 of  
16 which are heroin users; and

17  
18 Whereas, the MAT treatment capacity in Baltimore City is only 17,587, leaving a capacity deficit of 7,300; and

19  
20 Whereas, MAT in jails, prisons, and central booking is limited<sup>3</sup>; and

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22 Whereas, many prisoners are often forced to withdraw in inhumane ways, which may violate their 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment  
23 rights protecting them from cruel and unusual punishment, and the Supreme Court case *Estelle v. Gamble* (1976),  
24 which defined a “deliberate indifference to serious medical need” as “cruel and unusual<sup>4</sup>”; and therefore be it

25  
26 Resolved, that MedChi support the expansion of Medication-Assisted Treatment offered in Maryland jails,  
27 prisons, and central booking.

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30 At its meeting on September 22, 2018, the House of Delegates referred Resolution 33-18 to the Board of Trustees.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment#medications-used-in-mat>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.bhsbaltimore.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/OTP-Capacity-Report\\_01\\_27\\_17\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.bhsbaltimore.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/OTP-Capacity-Report_01_27_17_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/3/13/17020002/prison-opioid-epidemic-medications-addiction>; <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/429/97/>

<sup>4</sup> 429 U.S. 97 (1976); <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/429/97/>