



October 18, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1139E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Walden and Brady as well as Ranking Members Pallone and Neal,

On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we would like to thank you for your commitment to ensuring the bipartisan provision *Allowing for More Flexibility with Respect to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders* was included within the final opioid package recently passed by Congress. The members of the Nursing Community Coalition are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession and fully support your committees' work to provide authorization to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to prescribe Medication-Assisted Treatments (MATs) and work as critical providers in the fight to curb the opioid epidemic.

Amending the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823 (g)(2)(G)) to permanently authorize nurse practitioners and physician assistants as well as providing a five-year authorization for clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse-midwives will greatly expand access to patients suffering from opioid addictions, especially in rural and medically underserved areas where APRNs are often sole providers of care. APRNs are critical agents in treating these patients and the NCC commends the committees' work to increase access to treatment through nursing care.

Again, we thank you for your efforts to pass this important legislation, and appreciate your continued support for America's nurses by reducing barriers that impede access and quality care. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing

Promoting America's Health Through Nursing Care

www.thenursingcommunity.org · 202-463-6930 ext. 272

American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
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International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
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National Association of Neonatal Nurses
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National Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society

Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society