



September 18, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
The Capitol, H-232
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
The Capitol, H-204
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

As you work to finalize comprehensive opioid legislation, by conferencing the House and Senate packages, the 47 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition strongly urge you to include Section 3003, *Allowing for More Flexibility with Respect to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders*, of the House-passed SUPPORT for Families and Communities Act (H.R. 6). The Nursing Community Coalition is committed to improving the health of our nation and Section 3003 of H.R. 6, which maintains strong bipartisan support within both chambers, will aid in that effort as we work to address the opioid epidemic.

Section 3003 of H.R. 6 provides a permanent authorization for nurse practitioners and physician assistants to prescribe Medication-Assisted Treatments (MATs) to those suffering from opioid addictions and creates a five-year authorization for the other three advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) groups (certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists) to do the same. APRNs are critical agents in treating patients with substance use disorders, especially when they are the sole providers of this care in many medically underserved areas that struggle to recruit and retain health professionals.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, over 115 people die from an opioid overdose every day.¹ Amending the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823 (g)(2)(G)), as outlined in Section 3003, will drastically increase the number of available MAT providers which should decrease these devastating opioid statistics.

The Nursing Community Coalition encourages the inclusion of Section 3003 of H.R. 6 in any final opioid package to ensure patients have increased access to these life-saving treatments. If the Nursing

¹ National Institute on Drug Abuse. *Opioid Overdose Crisis*. Retrieved from: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>.

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
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
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
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

CC:

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Orrin Hatch
The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Greg Walden
The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Kevin Brady
The Honorable Richard Neal