October 18, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Hatch as well as Ranking Members Murray and Wyden,

On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we would like to thank you for your commitment to ensuring the 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

Promoting America’s Health Through Nursing Care

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American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
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