



Nursing Community Coalition Hosts Briefing on the Opioid Crisis

December 7, 2017–The Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) hosted a briefing on the opioid crisis that is taking a toll on the health, wellness, and lives of Americans and their families. The briefing titled *The Opioids Crisis: Nursing Practices That Save Lives* featured four nursing experts who each offered a different perspective on how the profession is on the front lines of saving patients impacted by opioid addiction. Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY) provided remarks at the briefing regarding his work with Representative Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) to introduce the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2017 (H.R. 3692), which the coalition has [supported](#).

Dr. Bruce Weiner, President of the [American Association of Nurse Anesthetists](#), provided an overview of the epidemic and the ways in which Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists are being trained to reduce opioid treatments after surgery.

Dr. Barbara St. Marie, Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa, College of Nursing and representative from the [American Society for Pain Management Nurses](#), spoke on current nursing research being conducted on Substance Use Disorder and chronic pain management and the role of the provider in offering treatment.

Dr. Joyce Knestrick, President of the [American Association of Nurse Practitioners](#), addressed the CARA authorization and how nurse practitioners are helping to treat not only patients but the families and communities impacted by opioid abuse, especially in the rural and underserved communities hit hardest.

Dr. Laura Leahy, Family Psychiatric and Addictions Advanced Practice Nurse and representative from the [American Psychiatric Nurses Association](#), highlighted mental health impact on addiction and the role of psychopharmacology in treating the opioid crisis.

The Nursing Community Coalition is committed to improving the health of our nation by working with legislators and other stakeholders to eradicate opioid addiction.

For any inquiries, please contact Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Nursing Community Coalition at smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org.

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