



October 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:

On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we would like to thank you for your bipartisan and bicameral efforts to ensure the passage of the comprehensive opioid package, *the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act*, which includes the provision *Allowing for More Flexibility with Respect to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders* (Section 3201). The members of the Nursing Community Coalition are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession and fully appreciate your 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.

Section 3201 will permanently allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants and provide a five-year authorization for the other three APRN roles to prescribe MATs. This provision will enable APRNs, often sole providers of care in rural and medically underserved areas that struggle to recruit and retain health professionals, to become critical agents of change in treating patients with substance use disorders.

Again, we thank you for your efforts to pass this important legislation and appreciate your continued support of America's nurses by reducing barriers to ensure patients have increased access to these life-saving treatments. 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
American Academy of Nursing

Promoting America's Health Through Nursing Care

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

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
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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
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

