



August 24, 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

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Schumer,

On behalf of the 46 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition, we 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), in any final Senate opioid package. The members of the Nursing Community Coalition are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession that comprises four million registered nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and nursing students across the country. 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, 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 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 and are sometimes the sole providers of this care in 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

The Nursing Community Coalition encourages the inclusion of Section 3003 of H.R. 6 in any Senate opioid package to ensure patients have 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](mailto: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

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

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 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