



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.<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 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

---

<sup>1</sup> 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](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  
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