



June 19, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1139E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Walden and Brady as well as Ranking Members Pallone and Neal,

On behalf of the 46 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition, we would like to thank you for your work to ensure the inclusion of Section 303, *Allowing for More Flexibility with Respect to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders*, in the SUPPORT for Families and Communities Act (H.R. 6). The members of the Nursing Community Coalition are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession and fully support the inclusion Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) as critical providers working to curb the opioid epidemic. With over four million licensed Registered Nurses, APRNs, and nursing students, the profession embodies the drive and passion to continually improve care for patients, families and communities. The coalition is committed to improving the health of our nation and we strongly believe Section 303 of H.R. 6 helps to achieve this end.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, approximately 115 people die from an opioid overdose every day. Amending the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823 (g)(2)(G)) to permanently authorize Nurse Practitioners and provide 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. Opioid misuse, dependence, and overdoses are on the rise, despite the many actions put in place to try to curb this crisis. APRNs are critical agents in treating these patients and are sometimes the sole providers of this care in medically underserved areas that struggle to recruit and retain providers and are hit hardest by this epidemic.

Again, we commend inclusion of Section 303 within H.R. 6, 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.

Promoting America's Health Through Nursing Care

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

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 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 Paul Ryan
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Michael Burgess
The Honorable Gene Green
The Honorable Pete Sessions
The Honorable James McGovern
The Honorable Paul Tonko
The Honorable Ben Ray Luján