



October 18, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and  
Pensions  
United States Senate  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and  
Pensions  
United States Senate  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Hatch as well as Ranking Members Murray and Wyden,

On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we would like to thank you for your commitment to ensuring the provision *Allowing for More Flexibility with Respect to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders* was included within the final opioid package recently passed by Congress. The members of the Nursing Community Coalition are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession and fully support your committees' 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.

Amending the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823 (g)(2)(G)) to permanently authorize nurse practitioners and physician assistants as well as providing 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, especially in rural and medically underserved areas where APRNs are often sole providers of care. APRNs are critical agents in treating these patients and the NCC commends the committees' work to increase access to treatment through nursing care.

Again, we thank you for your efforts to pass this important legislation 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](mailto:smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org) or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses

*Promoting America's Health Through Nursing Care*

[www.thenursingcommunity.org](http://www.thenursingcommunity.org) · 202-463-6930 ext. 272

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  
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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