



The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Collins,

The American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), an organization representing all levels of psychiatric-mental health nursing and committed to the care and treatment of persons with psychiatric and substance use disorders, would like to express our support of the recent legislation to amend H.R. 3692 via the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2018.

Nurse Practitioners (NP) and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) who provide medication-assisted treatment (MAT) play a critical role in turning the tide of the opioid epidemic. By including CNSs in the amendment of H.R. 3692 you are greatly expanding this vital workforce of qualified practitioners who have the advanced training needed to both provide mental health and substance use care and prescribe medication with compassion, commitment, and professionalism. Additionally, by reducing time limitations for NPs and CNSs to become qualifying MAT practitioners you empower more of these skilled practitioners to access the training needed to prescribe medication for the treatment of opioid use disorders. This will serve to lessen the current shortages of MAT providers, expanding access to this much-needed treatment across the country.

Again, we applaud your effort to further reduce barriers for Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists to deliver medication assisted treatment. APNA is happy to provide further information and expertise in this matter, should it be needed. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Croce Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicholas Croce Jr., MS
Executive Director