



November 13, 2017

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Tonko and Luján,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we would like to thank you for introducing the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2017 (H.R. 3692). As the national voice for academic nursing, AACN represents over 810 schools of nursing, which educate over 497,000 students, and of these, more than 95,000 are pursuing an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) degree.

H.R. 3692 expands medication-assisted treatment (more specifically, to prescribe buprenorphine) to ensure that those struggling with opioid misuse will be able to have access to this intervention. As part of this endeavor, we applaud the legislation's move to promote APRNs' ability to care for these patients by broadening the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823 (g)(2)(G)) to include APRNs as eligible providers. APRNs (which include nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse-midwives), are often the sole provider of care to communities, including rural and underserved regions most burdened with opioid addiction. Therefore, the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2017 is a common-sense solution to maximize the utilization of these clinicians, regardless of geographic location, to meet the opioid crisis head-on.

Again, we commend the introduction of H.R. 3692, and appreciate your support for America's practice by reducing barriers that impede access to quality care. If AACN can be of assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to our Director of Government Affairs, Lauren Inouye, at Linouye@aacnnursing.org or (202)-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juliann G. Sebastian".

Juliann G. Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN
AACN Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah E. Trautman".

Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN
President and Chief Executive Officer

THE VOICE OF ACADEMIC NURSING