



January 31, 2018

The Honorable Ed Markey  
United States Senate  
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rand Paul  
United States Senate  
167 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maggie Hassan  
United States Senate  
330 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Markey, Paul, Hassan, and Collins,

On behalf of the 40 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition, we would like to thank you for introducing the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2018 (S. 2317). 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 goal of this legislation to curb the opioid epidemic. With over four million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice 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 believe S. 2317 helps to achieve this end.

Broadening the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823 (g)(2)(G)) to include all APRNs will greatly expand access to patients suffering from opioid addictions. Opioid use and dependence are growing public health threats, despite the many actions put in place to try to curb this crisis. APRNs are critical agents in treating patients that experience these crises, and are sometimes the sole providers of this care in regions that struggle to recruit and retain providers. The Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2018 would create a permanent solution so that nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse-midwives are able to use their clinical training to help combat this national crisis.

Again, we commend the introduction of S. 2317, and appreciate your support for America's practice by reducing barriers that impede access to 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,

American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

*Promoting America's Health Through Nursing Care*

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

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 Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses  
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
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 Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National League for Nursing  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
Society of Pediatric Nurses  
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society