



President Trump Signs Sweeping Opioid Legislation

Today, approximately one year after the Trump Administration [declared](#) the national opioid crisis a public health emergency, the President signed comprehensive opioid legislation. This immediately followed his [announcement](#) of the Administration's new initiative to end opioid abuse.

The opioid legislation, SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act ([H.R. 6](#)), includes [Section 3201](#) that expands access to Medication-Assisted Treatments (MATs) for patients with substance use disorder by granting NPs and PAs authority to prescribe MATs. The provision also allows the other three APRN roles (certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists) a five-year authority to prescribe MATs. Another provision ([Section 7071](#)) in the legislative package includes student loan repayment for substance use disorder treatment providers, including nurses, in areas of national need.

Thank you to AACN members, who sent over 1,100 messages to Capitol Hill to help ensure these critical provisions were included in the final bill.



Dr. Julie Sochalski to Receive 2018 Lois Capps Policy Luminary Award

Dr. Julie Sochalski, Associate Professor of Nursing and Associate Dean for Academic Programs at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, will receive the 2018 AACN Lois Capps Policy Luminary Award, on Sunday, October 28, during the Academic Nursing Leadership Conference in Washington, DC.

The annual award was created in 2009 to recognize an outstanding nursing leader for their public policy achievements. Dr. Sochalski, current chair of AACN's Health Policy Advisory Council, has made exceptional contributions to the nursing workforce and health policy over the years, and is well-deserving of this esteemed honor. Her advocacy and determination to empower nurses to lead and impact policy is a beacon to the next generation of nurse leaders. AACN sincerely thanks Dr. Sochalski for helping to strengthen the nursing workforce and helping to ensure access to health and healthcare across the nation.

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