



November 9, 2020

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

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
United States House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act of 2019 (S. 2074/H.R. 2482)

Dear Senator Hassan and Representative Tonko:

The College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) and the Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists (SPPCP) write in support of the *Mainstreaming Addiction and Treatment Act* (S. 2074/H.R. 2482), which would eliminate the requirement that practitioners apply for a separate waiver through the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of substance use disorders (SUDs). Your leadership on this issue is critical to removing barriers for practitioners and increasing access to much needed treatment.

CPNP and SPPCP include over 2,000 specialty-trained pharmacists in mental health and pain management. We represent uniquely qualified pharmacists who understand the obstacles facing patients with SUDs. Members of our two organizations provide care in all practice settings including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, community health centers, physician office practices, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and the uniformed services.

CPNP and SPPCP support medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to treat opioid use disorders (OUDs). We regularly care for patients suffering with SUDs and are sensitive to the many barriers that patients encounter in seeking access to treatment for OUDs, including identifying a prescriber with a Drug Addiction and Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA) waiver to prescribe schedule III medications indicated for OUDs. Psychiatric, pain management and palliative care pharmacists, many who have completed multiyear postgraduate residency and fellowship training, are medication experts who provide expertise in rational polypharmacy that can enhance outcomes. Our specialty pharmacists play many different roles in helping patients receive OUD treatment including working under expanded authority, such as a collaborative practice agreement that permits prescribing, to help expand patient access to MAT. Therefore, to help reduce barriers and improve patient access to MAT prescribers, including mid-level practitioners¹, CPNP and SPPCP support eliminating the requirement that practitioners apply for a separate waiver through the DEA to prescribe buprenorphine.

¹ Drug Enforcement Administration (August 2019), Mid-Level Practitioners Authorization by State, available at: https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugreg/practitioners/mlp_by_state.pdf, last accessed: September 19, 2019, indicating registered pharmacists in eight states may prescribe controlled substances under certain circumstances, such as when a collaborative practice agreement is in place.

We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to use CPNP and SPPCP as resources by contacting:

- Brenda Schimenti, CPNP Executive Director, 402.476.1677, bschimenti@cpnp.org
- Stephanie Abel, SPPCP Advocacy Chair, at 859.323.2579, stephanie.abel@uky.edu

Sincerely,



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