



February 17, 2021

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko  
2369 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Turner  
2082 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Antonio Delgado  
1007 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez  
2458 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act**

Dear Representatives Tonko, Turner, Delgado and Gonzalez:

The College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) write in support of the *Mainstreaming Addiction and Treatment Act*, 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 is a professional association of nearly 3,000 members who envision a world where all individuals living with mental illness, including those with substance use and neurologic disorders, receive safe, appropriate, and effective treatment.

CPNP supports medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to treat opioid use disorders (OUDs). Psychiatric pharmacists also have a deep understanding of MAT that extends beyond that of most other healthcare providers. They 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 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 practitioners<sup>1</sup>, CPNP

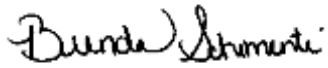
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<sup>1</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration (August 2019), Mid-Level Practitioners Authorization by State, available at: [https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugreg/practitioners/mlp\\_by\\_state.pdf](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugreg/practitioners/mlp_by_state.pdf) , last accessed: February 16, 2020, indicating registered pharmacists in eight states may prescribe controlled substances under certain circumstances, such as when a collaborative practice agreement is in place.

supports eliminating the requirement that practitioners apply for a separate waiver through the DEA to prescribe buprenorphine.

We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or our health policy consultant, Laura Hanen at [laura.hanen@faegredrinker.com](mailto:laura.hanen@faegredrinker.com).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda Schimenti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brenda" and last name "Schimenti" clearly distinguishable.

Brenda K. Schimenti  
Executive Director  
[bschimenti@cpnp.org](mailto:bschimenti@cpnp.org)