



February 17, 2021

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

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act

Dear Senators Hassan and Murkowski:

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.

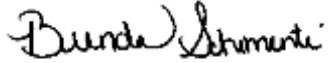
CPNP supports medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to treat opioid use disorders (OUDs). Psychiatric pharmacists also have a deep understanding of MAT that extends beyond that of most other healthcare providers. They care for patients suffering with SUDs and are sensitive to the many barriers that patients 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 practitioners¹, CPNP supports 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.dea.gov/diversion/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.

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.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "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