

COALITION TO
STOP OPIOID
OVERDOSE

December 5, 2017

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Tonko and Lujan,

The undersigned national mental health and substance use disorder organizations in the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose are writing today to express our support for H.R. 3692, the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act.

The Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose is a coalition of diverse organizations representing health care and social service professionals and advocates united around common policy goals that will lead to meaningful and comprehensive policies to reduce opioid overdose deaths through prevention, treatment and recovery support services.

To make a meaningful and sustainable impact on the current opioid overdose epidemic, it is imperative that we build a robust treatment workforce. The Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act makes great strides in doing so by codifying the Final Rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in July 2016 that raised the DATA 2000 patient limit for certain physicians to 275 patients, eliminating the sunset date for nurse practitioners' (NPs) and physician assistants' (PAs) prescribing authority for buprenorphine, and expanding the definition of 'qualifying practitioner' to include nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse midwives.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. The Addiction and Treatment Access Improvement Act would build on recent legislative accomplishments to increase access to addiction treatment, and we look forward to working with you to secure its passage.

Sincerely,

American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Central City Concern
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Safety Council
Treatment Communities of America
Young People in Recovery