



April 24, 2018

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Portman, Whitehouse, Capito, Klobuchar, Sullivan, Hassan, Cassidy, and Cantwell,

On behalf of the 41 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition, we would like to thank you for introducing the CARA 2.0 Act of 2018 (S. 2456). The members of the Nursing Community Coalition are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession and fully support the goal of this legislation to curb the opioid epidemic. With over four million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and nursing students, the profession embodies the drive and passion to continually improve care for patients, families, and communities. The coalition is committed to improving the health of our nation, and we believe S. 2456 makes significant strides in achieving this goal.

The coalition has previously supported the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act (H.R. 3692/S. 2317) which would allow all APRNs to provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). Similarly, Section 7.0 of CARA 2.0 expands the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 to allow all APRNs to prescribe MAT. CARA 2.0 would create a permanent solution so that nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse-midwives are able to use their clinical training to help combat this national crisis. The provider-neutral language in CARA 2.0 will greatly expand access to patients suffering from opioid addictions. Opioid use and dependence are growing public health threats, despite the many actions put in place to try to curb this crisis. APRNs are critical agents in treating patients that experience these crises, and are sometimes the sole providers of this care in regions that struggle to recruit and retain providers.

Promoting America's Health Through Nursing Care

www.thenursingcommunity.org · 202-463-6930 ext. 272

Again, we commend the introduction of S. 2456, and appreciate your support for America's practice by reducing barriers that impede access to quality care. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society