



Paul D. Tonko



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Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act – H.R. 3692

Sponsors: Rep. Paul Tonko and Rep. Ben Ray Luján

Current Cosponsors: Bonamici, Faso, Lujan Grisham, McKinley, Stefanik, Tipton, Lance, Kennedy, Collins (NY), Thompson (PA), Moulton, Sensenbrenner

Background: The United States continues to be in the midst of a devastating opioid epidemic. 2016 was the deadliest year yet, with more than 64,000 dying from drug overdoses according to the Centers for Disease Control, an astonishing 21 percent increase from 2015. Despite the passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which represented a good first step, there is still a significant shortage in treatment capacity, resulting in individuals waiting months or years to receive effective addiction treatment. Only 20 percent of patients who need treatment for opioid use disorder are currently receive it.

The Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act builds on the steps taken in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act to further expand addiction treatment capacity by expanding the list of providers eligible to prescribe buprenorphine, an office-based form of medication-assisted treatment, to include clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists. These advanced practice nursing professionals have similar educational and training requirements as other currently eligible providers and serve as primary care providers for vulnerable populations.

In addition, this legislation would codify the 2016 regulation that expanded the number of patients qualified physicians could treat to 275, while preserving the ability of the HHS Secretary to adjust the patient limit, and make permanent the authorization that allows non-physician providers to treat patients with buprenorphine.

Support: American Society of Addiction Medicine, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Nurses Association, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American Academy of Physician Assistants, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, American Association of Colleges of Nursing

Section 1: Short Title

Section 2: Codifies the 2016 regulation that allows qualified physicians to treat to up to 275 patients with buprenorphine if they meet the conditions outlined in the regulation. The HHS Secretary would still retain the ability to adjust the patient limit.

Section 3: Makes permanent the provision that allows nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists to prescribe buprenorphine. This provision is currently set to expire in 2021.

Section 4: Adds clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists to the list of other eligible practitioners.

To co-sponsor, please contact Jeff Morgan (jeff.morgan@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Tonko's office.