



Paul D. Tonko



proudly serving New York's Capital Region

Leading the fight on the Opioid Epidemic

Expanding Medication-Assisted Treatment

- In 114th Congress, authored H.R. 4981, the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act, which resulted in provision in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act expanding buprenorphine prescribing privileges to Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants
- Introduced H.R. 3692, the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act, which would further expand buprenorphine prescribing privileges to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and eliminate sunset provision for non-MD prescribers
- During Affordable Care Act implementation, led letters to HHS urging consideration of addiction medicine in essential health benefits and network adequacy rulemakings
- Led letter to Obama Administration resulting in increased DATA 2000 patient caps for MDs

Preventing Overdose Deaths

- Introduced H.R. 4005, the Medicaid Reentry Act, which would prevent overdose deaths in the vulnerable population of those leaving jail or prison by restarting eligible beneficiaries' Medicaid benefits 30-days prior to release, increasing access to community care and addiction treatment
- Supported policies as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee to increase access to Naloxone, including enhanced grant funding for first responders and co-prescribing in at-risk populations

Strengthening Parity Requirements

- Championed New York's mental health parity law (known as Timothy's Law) as a New York State Assemblyman, which predates the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act
- Wrote numerous letters Obama Administration, urging finalization of robust mental health parity regulations and enforcement, including in the Medicaid Managed Care and CHIP programs
- Introduced H.R. 2509, Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Equity Act, which would eliminate Medicare's 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric hospital care

Investing in Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Infrastructure

- Leads annual House letter urging appropriations for the Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, the backbone of publicly funded substance use care
- Authored 21st Century Cures Provision authorizing crisis care treatment locator grant program and secured floor amendment funding this program during FY18 appropriations process
- Cosponsor of the Opioid and Heroin Abuse Crisis Investment Act, which would extend emergency opioid funding provided through the 21st Century Cures Act through 2023