



January 11, 2018

The Honorable Paul Tonko
United States House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

We the undersigned write in support of **H.R. 3692 (“Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act”)**, and in support of strengthening language to expand prescriber thresholds for the life-saving medication-assisted treatment buprenorphine.

Communities across the nation continue to fight against the devastating opioid and heroin epidemic. Overdoses have become the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S., claiming over 175 lives everyday. The sharp rise in overdose fatalities is due in part to a dangerous mix of fentanyl and other fentanyl derivatives. Outcomes have shown that access to medication-assisted treatment is an incredibly effective tool for opioid addiction, yet access to those treatments is heavily restricted.

New prescribers of buprenorphine can only prescribe for 30 people in their first year of certification. Following that first year, **only** physicians can apply to increase their limit up to 275 people, while other qualified practitioners like Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants are limited to a 100 patient cap. NP’s and PA’s are highly qualified, vital parts of healthcare teams, and should have the ability to prescribe to a greater number of patients. Raising the patient limit up to 275 for **all** qualified prescribers would significantly open access to this evidence-based and effective treatment.

Prescribers have the ability to prescribe addictive narcotics without restrictions, yet burdensome restrictions are placed on prescribing practices for the interventions to effectively treat opioid addiction. Congress must do more to stem the tide of this epidemic. We support the inclusion of language into **H.R. 3692** that would allow all qualified prescribers to increase their patient threshold up to 275.

Sincerely,

NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Council for Behavioral Health

(list continues on following pages)

National Organizations

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
Legal Action Center
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
The Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Treatment Communities of America

Statewide and Regional Associations

Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
Association for Community Living
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc.
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
Illinois Association for Behavioral Health
Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities
Iowa Behavioral Health Association
Mental Health Association in New York State
Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services
New York State Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers
New York State Care Management Coalition
New York State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
The Coalition of Behavioral Health
Therapeutic Community Association of New York
Utah Behavioral Health Committee

NYS Providers

ACACIA Network
Allegany County Community Services
Arms Acres
Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center
Catholic Family Center Rochester
Central Nassau Guidance and Counseling Services
Central New York Services, Inc.
Circare
Citizen Advocates, Inc.
Conifer Park
Council on Addiction Recovery Services, Inc.- Cattaraugus County
Delphi Drug and Alcohol Council
EPIC Long Island
Family and Children's Association
Family and Children's Society
Family and Counseling Services of Cortland County

Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc.
Family Service League
Federation of Organizations
Finger Lakes Area Counseling and Recovery Agency
Genesee/Orleans Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc.
Horizon Health Services
Horizon Village
Hospitality House
Human Development Services of Westchester
Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services
Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County
Loyola Recovery Foundation
Mental Health Association of Westchester County
Orleans County Department of Mental Health
Rochester Regional Health
Search for Change, Inc.
Services for the UnderServed (SUS)
South Shore Child Guidance
Southeast Nassau Guidance Center
Spectrum Human Services
Staten Island Mental Health Society
Syracuse Behavioral Health
The PAC Program