



September 14, 2018

Dear Senator:

The members of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) – innovative leaders from all sectors of American healthcare including providers, payers, manufacturers, distributors, academic health centers, and health information technology firms among others – applaud the Senate for considering additional legislation next week to address the nation’s opioid crisis and urge its swift and bipartisan approval.

We are encouraged by the multi-faceted approach taken by the Senate in constructing this legislative package. The opioid crisis that has claimed too many lives and damaged too many of our communities presents a complex challenge that defies simple solutions. The Senate is correct in advancing multiple approaches, from expanded access to medication-assisted treatment to broader use of telemedicine to help those with substance abuse disorder.

We look forward to the merging of the Senate and House bills resulting in a final product that will include a wide range of initiatives and programs that can effectively reduce opioid misuse and curb rates of addiction. There is a great deal that can and should be done to promote coordinated care and fully utilize the skills of all healthcare professionals, optimize the use of data analytics to track and prevent misuse of opioids, and accelerate therapeutic innovation including the development of and support for non-opioid pain management options.

HLC, working with leaders from business, academia, government, addiction treatment and multiple healthcare sectors, developed a comprehensive package of proposals – [consisting of legislative recommendations](#), regulatory reforms, and private sector-initiated actions – to address the opioid crisis. We are pleased that many of these ideas are included in the package the Senate will be considering and we stand ready to work with you in advancing a final bill for the President’s signature.

We applaud the Senate for taking on this critical issue and doing so in a thoughtful and substantive manner. We share your conviction that there are effective solutions at hand for this public health challenge and that, as these ideas are implemented, we will successfully save and strengthen lives and bring brighter futures to individuals, families, and communities.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Witchev at (202) 449-3435 or dwitchey@hlc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary R. Grealy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mary R. Grealy
President