



April 11, 2019

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1111 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2421 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Blumenauer and Mullin:

The Confidentiality Coalition (Coalition) is writing to express our strong support for H.R. 2062 the "Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety (OPPS) Act," which would enable the appropriate exchange of necessary information among medical professionals who are treating individuals with substance use disorders, including opioid abuse. Thank you for introducing this important legislation again this Congress.

The Confidentiality Coalition is a broad group of organizations spanning all sectors of healthcare working to ensure that policies are implemented to appropriately balance the protection of confidential health information with the efficient and interoperable systems needed to provide high quality healthcare. Access to timely and accurate patient information leads to both improvements in quality and safety and the development of new lifesaving and life-enhancing medical interventions. The Coalition is comprised of hospitals, medical teaching colleges, health plans, pharmacies, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, vendors of electronic health records, biotech firms, employers, health product distributors, pharmacy benefit managers, health information and research organizations, clinical laboratories, and others. Through this diversity, we develop a nuanced perspective on the impact of any legislation or regulation affecting the privacy and security of health consumers.

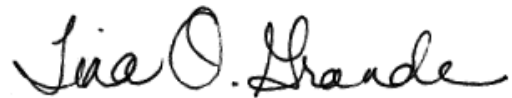
We applaud Congress' continued bipartisan efforts to address this important patient safety issue. As our healthcare delivery system moves toward more robust, integrated care models, every member of a patient's treatment team needs to be aware of a patient's full medical history, including substance use disorder information. Current regulations (under 42 CFR Part 2) (Part 2), stand as a hindrance to whole-person care and must be changed to ensure all patients, regardless of diagnosis, have access to safe, effective, high-quality treatment and care.

The Coalition remains committed to aligning Part 2 with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) for the purposes of treatment, payment, and healthcare operations (TPO) and as such is pleased to see reintroduction of the OPPS Act. This legislation will bolster the effectiveness of other key provisions in legislation Congress passed previously that

promotes coordinated care and expands access to treatment for opioids.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with you and stand ready to work with Congress in implementation of last year's opioid legislation as well as additional efforts to address the opioid crisis. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202.449.3433 or [tgrande@hlc.org](mailto:tgrande@hlc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina O. Grande". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tina Olson Grande  
Healthcare Leadership Council on behalf of the Confidentiality Coalition



## CONFIDENTIALITY COALITION

### MEMBERSHIP

AdventHealth  
Aetna, a CVS Health business  
America's Health Insurance Plans  
American Hospital Association  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
AmerisourceBergen  
Amgen  
AMN Healthcare  
Anthem  
Ascension  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Clinical Research Organizations  
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Bio-Reference Laboratories  
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association  
BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina  
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee  
Cardinal Health  
Cerner  
Change Healthcare  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)  
CHIME  
Cigna  
Ciox Health  
City of Hope  
Cleveland Clinic  
College of American Pathologists  
Comfort Keepers  
ConnectiveRx  
Cotiviti  
CVS Health  
Datavant  
dEpid/dt Consulting Inc.  
Electronic Healthcare Network Accreditation Commission  
EMD Serono  
Express Scripts  
Fairview Health Services  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Genetic Alliance  
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Healthcare Leadership Council  
Hearst Health  
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Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals  
Maxim Healthcare Services  
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National Association for Behavioral Healthcare  
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NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital  
NorthShore University Health System  
Pfizer  
Pharmaceutical Care Management Association  
Premier healthcare alliance  
SCAN Health Plan  
Senior Helpers  
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Texas Health Resources  
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Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange  
ZS Associates