



April 8, 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 Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) 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 reintroducing this important legislation this Congress.

HLC is a coalition of chief executives from all disciplines within American healthcare. It is the exclusive forum for the nation's healthcare leaders to jointly develop policies, plans, and programs to achieve their vision of a 21st century healthcare system that makes affordable high-quality care accessible to all Americans. Members of HLC – hospitals, academic health centers, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, laboratories, biotech firms, health product distributors, pharmacies, post-acute care providers, home care providers, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach. 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 believe 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.

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. Currently, 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.

HLC 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 Tina Grande at 202.449.3433 or tgrande@hlc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary R. Greal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent.

Mary R. Greal
President

cc:

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
The Honorable Buddy Carter
The Honorable Dan Crenshaw
The Honorable Suzan DelBene
The Honorable Dwight Evans
The Honorable George Holding
The Honorable Bill Johnson
The Honorable John Joyce, M.D.
The Honorable Mike Kelly
The Honorable Rick Larsen
The Honorable Seth Moulton
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
The Honorable Scott Peters
The Honorable Harley Rouda
The Honorable Terri Sewell
The Honorable Tom Suozzi
The Honorable Greg Walden
The Honorable Ron Wright