



April 8, 2019

The Honorable Joe Manchin
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore-Capito
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Manchin and Moore-Capito:

The Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) is writing to express our strong support for S. 1012 the “Protecting Jessica Grubb’s Legacy Act (The Legacy 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 OPPI 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 that reads "Mary R. Grealy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary R. Grealy
President

cc:

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Kevin Cramer
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Kamala Harris
The Honorable Angus King
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
The Honorable Thomas Tillis
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse