



February 15, 2018

The Honorable Bill Foster  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tim Ryan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Evan Jenkins  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Foster, Fitzpatrick, Ryan, and Jenkins:

On behalf of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), I am writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 2687, the “Medicaid Coverage for Addiction Recovery Expansion (CARE) Act.” We applaud your leadership on this important legislation and are proud to support it.

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, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach.

Like you, HLC is greatly concerned about the opioid use epidemic and believes that addicts must receive treatment. Unfortunately, however, in 2014 less than 12 percent of Americans with a substance use disorder got treatment.

Low-income patients like those on Medicaid are especially in need of assistance. H.R. 2687 would increase access to treatment for this vulnerable population by modifying the Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion. This policy prohibits the use of Medicaid financing for care in facilities with more than 16 beds. Your legislation would allow coverage for up to 60 consecutive days in facilities with up to 40 beds. Additionally, the bill would establish a grant program to fund facilities for youths in rural areas.

Thank you for your work on H.R. 2687. HLC looks forward to continuing to collaborate with you on this important issue. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Witchey at (202) 449-3435 or [dwitchey@hlc.org](mailto:dwitchey@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