May 16, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

As the Committee continues its work on legislation to address the opioid crisis, we write as co-chairs of the Deans' Nursing Policy Coalition (the Coalition), whose names and list of schools are attached. Our schools prepare registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), certified registered nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists. Our programs are committed to improving care and seek to prepare our students to care for their patients, their families, and their communities. We write to encourage you to remove the limits on their abilities to care for those combatting an opioid dependence and the communities struggling to address this crisis.

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) (P.L. 114-198) took a number of critical steps to expand access to treatment by authorizing nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) to provide medication assisted treatment (MAT) for five years. However, CARA did not include the other qualified APRNs into that authorization.

We urge you to use provider-neutral language and incorporate all APRN roles in the Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018 (S. 2680), allowing an expansion of access to care for these patients. We also urge you to include S. 2317, the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act, in any opioid package that the Committee approves and ensure that the package expands the qualifying practitioners to include other qualified APRNs.

We appreciate your consideration of this very important issue. Please let us know if we may provide further assistance to the Committee.

Sincerely,

Linda A. McCauley, RN, PhD, FAAN, FAAOHN  
Dean and Professor  
Emory's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

Ann Kurth, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN  
Dean and Linda Koch Lorimer Professor  
Yale University School of Nursing
Deans’ Nursing Policy Coalition

Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Mary O'Neil Mundinger Professor
Senior Vice President, Columbia University Medical Center

Marion Broome, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean of the School of Nursing; Vice Chancellor for Nursing Affairs, Duke University; and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs for Nursing, Duke University Health System

Patricia Davidson, RN, BA, MEd, PhD
Dean, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

Ann Kurth, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN
Dean and Linda Koch Lorimer Professor
Yale University School of Nursing

Mary E. Kerr, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and May L. Wykle Endowed Professorship in Nursing, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University

Linda A. McCauley, RN, PhD, FAAN, FAAOHN
Dean and Professor
Emory’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

Linda Norman, DSN, RN, FAAN
Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing
Dean, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing

Kathy Rideout, EdD, PNP-BC, FNAP
Dean and Professor of Clinical Nursing, University of Rochester School of Nursing
Vice President, University of Rochester Medical Center

Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Erline Perkins McGriff Professor
New York University College of Nursing

Antonia M. Villarruel, PhD, RN, FAAN
Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing
University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing

Staff Contacts:

Jessica Ann Davis
Government Relations
Emory's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing
jessica.ann.davis@emory.edu
470-381-7337

Kara Haas
Government Relations
Yale University School of Nursing
kara.haas@yale.edu
203-436-2893