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July 14, 2016

The United States Congress
United States Capitol
Washington, DC
20510

To the Members of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives:

The undersigned organizations representing health care providers write to express our appreciation for the bipartisan, bicameral legislation that is intended to curb opioid addiction and change the national perspective on how pain is managed and substance use disorder is treated.

Passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) represents a first step by the United States Congress in attacking the opioid epidemic, and we applaud the bipartisan work that led to this milestone. As providers, we appreciate the comprehensive framework of prevention, treatment, and recovery support that CARA's provisions can provide.

Over the last decade, the growing opioid epidemic has affected millions of Americans. CARA exemplifies a shift to recognizing addiction as a disease, rather than as a crime or a moral failing. Now we must be able to ensure treatment for this disease is available to all in our country who need it.

We therefore urge Congress to continue to build on CARA's achievements, and to next ensure that appropriate funding is made available in order for providers to have the resources they need to prevent opioid addiction from claiming more lives and causing more devastation to families and communities.

Thank you for your bipartisan work to date on this important issue, and we stand ready to support continued efforts by Congress to ensure both new and existing treatment efforts at the local, state, and federal level are appropriately funded.

Sincerely,

American Osteopathic Association
Alaska Osteopathic Medical Association
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Osteopathy
American Academy of Pain Medicine

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American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists
American College of Physicians
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Association
American Medical Association
American Nurses Association
American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Osteopathic Association of Medical Informatics
American Osteopathic College of Pathologists
American Osteopathic College of Radiology
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians
Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association
Arkansas Medical Society
Arkansas Osteopathic Medical Association
Arkansas Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Behavioral Health System Baltimore
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
Idaho Osteopathic Physicians Association
Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society
Indiana Osteopathic Association
Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine
Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association

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Massachusetts Osteopathic Society
Medical Society of the State of New York
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Minnesota Osteopathic Medical Society
Mississippi Osteopathic Association
Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons
National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)
Nevada Osteopathic Medical Association
New Hampshire Osteopathic Association
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
New Mexico Medical Society
New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association
New York State Osteopathic Medical Society
Ohio Osteopathic Association
Ohio State Medical Association
Ohio State Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Oklahoma Osteopathic Association
Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association
Rhode Island Society of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Treatment Communities of America
Utah Medical Association
West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association
Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons