



October 4, 2019

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act of 2019 (H.R. 2482 / S. 2074)

Dear Representative Tonko and Senator Hassan:

APhA, founded in 1852 as the American Pharmaceutical Association, represents more than 60,000 pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and others interested in improving medication use and advancing patient care. APhA members provide care in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, community health centers, physician office practices, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and the uniformed services.

We applaud you for introducing the *Mainstreaming Addiction and Treatment Act* (H.R. 2482/S. 2074). APhA supports medication assisted treatment (MAT) as one approach to treating opioid use disorder (OUD). APhA is also sensitive to the many barriers that patients may encounter in seeking access to treatment for OUD, including identifying a prescriber with a Drug Addiction and Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA) waiver to prescribe schedule III medications indicated for OUD. Pharmacists are medication experts and can play many different roles in helping patients receive OUD treatment. For example, pharmacists working under expanded authority, such as a collaborative practice agreement that permits prescribing, could also help expand patient access to MAT. Therefore, to help reduce barriers and improve patient access to MAT prescribers, including mid-level practitioners¹, APhA supports eliminating the requirement that practitioners apply for a separate waiver through the Drug Enforcement Administration to prescribe buprenorphine.

As you move forward, please do not hesitate to use APhA as resource. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alicia Kerry Mica, Senior Lobbyist, at amica@aphanet.org or by phone at (202) 429-7507.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Menighan, BSPHarm, MBA, ScD (Hon), FAPhA
Executive Vice President and CEO

¹ See [Drug Enforcement Administration \(August 2019\), Mid-Level Practitioners Authorization by State](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugreg/practitioners/mlp_by_state.pdf), available at: https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugreg/practitioners/mlp_by_state.pdf, last accessed: September 19, 2019, indicating registered pharmacists in eight states may prescribe controlled substances under certain circumstances, such as when a collaborative practice agreement is in place.