The Honorable Dean Heller  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  

The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
131 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  

Dear Senators Heller, Menendez, and Isakson:

We the undersigned organizations are writing to express our appreciation and support for your legislation, S. 2769, the “Opioid Addiction Plan Act.” This legislation is a critical component to addressing America’s opioid crisis, ensuring coverage policies and activities in the Medicare and Medicaid programs help advance patient access to the highest standard of care and treatment for both addiction and pain. We support your commitment to patients and your work to advance this legislation as a part of the larger reforms to address the opioid crisis.

This legislation would require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop an Opioid Action Plan. Through this Action Plan, the Agency would be directed to engage with stakeholders via formal public meetings, collecting information to inform updates to existing coverage policies to incorporate advances in treatment for pain and addiction, how to incorporate best practices for care of pain and addiction into coverage policies, and how to develop Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Models and state Medicaid waivers in a manner that will help address the opioid crisis. This Action Plan bolsters activities that are already underway at CMS to collect feedback from stakeholders by ensuring there is a reporting mechanism around actions taken and broad opportunity for interested parties, including the organizations listed below, to help shape the Agency’s coverage policies and activities in a manner that best serves patients.

We believe this Action Plan will play a critical role in ensuring that other coverage reforms advanced as a part of the broader final legislative package are working appropriately on behalf of patients, and urge the Senate to move this forward as a component of the larger opioid legislative package. It is critical that CMS continue to engage with our organizations and others to prioritize access for patients, working collectively to address the opioid crisis. We thank you for your leadership and look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

ADAP Advocacy Association  
Aimed Alliance
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Balanced Pain Management
Alliance for Patient Access
Caregiver Action Network
Community Access National Network (CANN)
HealthyWomen
Lipodystrophy United
Lupus and Allied Diseases
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Health Council

National Osteoporosis Foundation
Oncology Nursing Society
Patients Rising Now
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Shatterproof
RetireSafe
The AIDS Institute
Young People in Recovery