

September 4, 2018

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