December 4, 2019

The Honorable Maggie Hassan  
U.S. Senate  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
U.S. Senate  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Hassan and Collins:

On behalf of the 80 organizations below, we write to express our support for the Opioid Workforce Act of 2019 (S.2892). This thoughtful, bipartisan legislation would provide Medicare support for an additional 1,000 graduate medical education (GME) positions over five years in hospitals that have, or are in the process of establishing, accredited residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain medicine. We greatly appreciate Congress’ commitment to advancing policies that would strengthen the health care workforce serving on the front lines of the nation’s opioid epidemic.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in 2018 approximately 21 million people needed treatment for a substance use disorder, however only 11% of those received any treatment at all. Part of the reason for this disparity is a shortage of physicians trained in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain medicine. The lack of physicians trained in these specialties reflects the nation’s larger physician shortages. Funding new, targeted residency positions will strengthen the health care workforce and help mitigate the effects of the overall physician shortage.

The Opioid Workforce Act of 2019 is a targeted and important step that Congress must take to help ensure a robust physician workforce that can deliver high-quality care to those suffering from substance abuse disorders.

We encourage all senators to support this bipartisan bill.

Sincerely,

A New PATH  
Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health  
AIDS United  
Alabama Society of Addiction Medicine  
Alaska Society of Addiction Medicine  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
American Academy of Pain Medicine  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association for Anatomy  
American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine  
American College of Physicians  
American Medical Group Association  
American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
America's Essential Hospitals  
Arizona Society of Addiction Medicine  
Arkansas Society of Addiction Medicine  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology  
Association of Medical School Microbiology and Immunology Chairs  
Association of University Professors of Neurology  
Association of University Radiologists  
California Hospital Association  
California Society of Addiction Medicine  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine  
Connecticut Society of Addiction Medicine  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Florida Society of Addiction Medicine  
Greater New York Hospital Association  
Hawaii Society of Addiction Medicine  
Healthcare Association of New York State  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Illinois Health and Hospital Association  
Indiana Society of Addiction Medicine  
Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine  
Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association  
Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine  
Medical Group Management Association  
Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine  
Midwest Society of Addiction Medicine (Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)  
Minnesota Society of Addiction Medicine  
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare  
National Council for Behavioral Health  
Nevada Society of Addiction Medicine  
New England Society of Addiction Medicine (Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire)  
New Jersey Society of Addiction Medicine  
North Carolina Society of Addiction Medicine
Northwest Society of Addiction Medicine (Montana, Wyoming, and North Dakota)
Ohio Society of Addiction Medicine
Oklahoma Society of Addiction Medicine
Pennsylvania Society of Addiction Medicine
Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing
Rhode Island Society of Addiction Medicine
Shatterproof
SMART Recovery
Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education
Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
South Carolina Society of Addiction Medicine
Student Coalition on Addiction
Student National Medicine Association
Texas Society of Addiction Medicine
The Hospitals & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
The Kennedy Forum
Utah Society of Addiction Medicine
Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine
West Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine
Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine
Young People in Recovery