



Wisconsin Medical Society

September 26, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

The opioid crisis is the preeminent population health issue of our time. Recent estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) project that over 48,000 people will die this year from opioid-related overdoses. Almost 800 of those people will be from Wisconsin. Efforts have been undertaken at every level of government to help address this crisis, but sadly it is still not enough.

In the wake of this crisis, both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have passed legislation to fight the opioid epidemic. The Wisconsin Medical Society (Society) asks for your support for the final reconciled bill H.R. 6, which includes the following provisions:

- Support for the temporary repeal of the Institutes for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusions for Medicaid beneficiaries (Subtitle F, Sections 5041-5042).
- Increased Medicare payments for non-opioid treatments for post-surgical pain (Subtitle I, Section 6082).
- Increased access to medication assisted therapy (MAT) and codifying increasing patient caps on MAT (Subtitle B, Chapter 1, Sections 3201-3203).

Much work remains to be done in fighting the opioid crisis. Specifically, the Society would like to see increased and continued funding for MAT and non-opioid treatments for pain, along with grants for training both physicians and medical students on proper prescribing methods. The Society would also like Congress to consider permanently lifting the patient caps on buprenorphine and other-related MAT prescribing. The current actions of both the House and the Senate represent a positive step in addressing opioid crisis and lay the foundation for future efforts.

Sincerely,

Michael McNett, MD
Chair, Opioid Task Force
Wisconsin Medical Society