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September 21, 2017

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
261 Russell Senate Office
Building Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Al Franken
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senators Cassidy, Blunt, Bennet, and Franken:

On behalf of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), a national medical specialty representing more than 5,000 physicians and allied health professionals who specialize in the treatment of addiction, I am writing to express our support for Section 3 of your bill, S. 916, the *Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017*, which would allow pharmacies to deliver controlled substances to prescribing or administering practitioners, including medications that are administered by implantation, injection, or through the use of an intrathecal pump for maintenance or detoxification treatment of addiction.

Foremost to ASAM's mission is a goal to increase access to and improve the quality of addiction treatment. The introduction and use of novel addiction pharmacotherapies supports this goal. Addiction patients, like all patients, should have available to them a robust and varied array of treatment options, as no one treatment modality is appropriate or therapeutic for everyone. The recent approval of an implantable buprenorphine product, and the anticipated approval of two injectable buprenorphine formulations, expands treatment options for patients. No product will be suitable for all patients, and many will still be best-served by oral formulations, other medications, or no medication at all, but they may help improve treatment adherence and reduce diversion among certain patients for whom they are indicated.

However, these options are only valuable if patients can access them. S. 916 would facilitate access to these new products by allowing them to be delivered to administering practitioners on a patient-by-patient basis rather than requiring the practitioners anticipate demand, buy the medication in advance, store it on site, and hope they estimated the correct number of doses needed to meet demand and avoid waste. This is not a new pathway for medication delivery, but would allow for these controlled substances to be delivered as many non-controlled substances are already.

ASAM appreciates your attention to this technical detail and your leadership in championing legislation that will promote patient access to new addiction treatment options. We look forward to working with you to ensure your bill's passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly J. Clark".

Kelly J. Clark, MD, MBA, DFASAM
President, American Society of Addiction Medicine

CC: The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Patty Murray