



Working Together for an Affordable Future

March 12, 2018

Honorable Katherine Clark
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Markwayne Mullin
1113 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Clark and Mullin:

The National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC) is a coalition of health care stakeholder organizations committed to promoting an affordable, high-quality health system in the United States. As the nation's oldest and most diverse group working to achieve comprehensive health reform, we represent more than 100 member organizations, including health care providers, purchasers, payers, and consumers. Collectively, our organizations represent—as employees, members, or congregants—more than 100 million Americans.

As you know, Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) are exacting an enormous toll on the American population in both lives and economics. This crisis is complex, and the public policy response must be multifaceted. Providers, payers, and public programs are re-examining their practices and policies related to CDC guidelines regarding opioid use—specifically that opioids should not be routine or first-line treatments for chronic pain, and prescriptions should be at the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible time.

Unfortunately, our current policies on permitting paper prescriptions opens the door to abuse, diversion, and fraud. Tracking prescriptions and prescribing patterns is a necessary part of preventing the growth of this avoidable public health emergency. That is why the Coalition is pleased to support H.R. 3528, Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act, because it requires prescriptions for controlled substances in the Medicare Part D program to be issued electronically. This legislation is a key component to modernizing our prescribing policies to prevent misuse of opioids as we battle a nationwide epidemic.

NCHC looks forward to working with you to advance this important legislation. If NCHC can be of any assistance, please contact NCHC's Policy Team, Larry McNeely at lmcneely@nchc.org or Emily Haas ehaas@nchc.org

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CEO,
Marshfield Clinic Health System

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Rother". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Rother" clearly distinguishable.

John Rother
President and CEO
National Coalition on Health Care