



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING

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February 14, 2018

The Honorable Steve Stivers
United States House of Representatives
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Dear Congressman Stivers,

This letter is in strong support of your proposed legislation entitled, “Reinforcing Evidence-Based Standards Under Law in Treating Substance Abuse Act of 2018”. Your bill seeks to develop evidence-building activities to inform policymaking within federal agencies. The passage of this legislation will be a big national win for advancing evidence-based practice and policy, enhancing the quality of healthcare, and improving the health outcomes of Americans.

The United States spends more money on healthcare than any western world country, it ranks 37th in health outcomes. One key reason for this ranking is that many healthcare systems, public health departments, and clinicians across the United States do not consistently use the evidence generated from science to implement evidence-based practices and inform policies. Instead, care and programs are often based on tradition (for example, “that’s the way we do it here”) or on outdated, non-science-based information. Findings from a strong body of research indicates that evidence-based or science-based healthcare and programming enhances the quality and safety of care, reduces healthcare costs, and improves population health outcomes. However, it often takes years or even decades to translate findings from science into real world clinical settings and health policy to improve outcomes. Embracing evidence-based practice cultures and policies is long overdue in America and in our healthcare systems. Healthcare environments are under enormous pressure. Healthcare costs continue to escalate and there is still a tendency to deliver too much care instead of the right evidence-based care.

In virtually any other field, science and research dictate decision-making and practice. In healthcare, inertia is so powerful that it often overwhelms scientific evidence. To change the practice and change the results, we have to change the culture to one in which evidence-based practice and evidence-based policy-making is the norm. This important legislation is urgently needed in our country to improve the health outcomes of Americans.

Thank you for introducing this very needed legislation.

Warm regards,

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