



March 9, 2018

The Honorable Hal Rogers
2406 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Endorsement of H.R. 5102, Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act of 2018

Dear Congressman Rogers,

I am writing on behalf of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) to endorse H.R. 5102, the Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act of 2018. NBCC is the national credentialing organization for the counseling profession, representing over 63,000 National Certified Counselors (NCCs) in the United States. NBCC also develops and administers the examinations for licensure of mental health counselors in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

The Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act is of critical importance because it will increase the addiction workforce. The timing could not be more urgent, as the nation faces the opioid crisis. There are not enough addiction counselors to meet the public need and people are dying as a result. Opioid abuse, hospitalization, and death are skyrocketing, and Congress needs to act.

Providing loan repayments to addiction counselors will strengthen the workforce and increase the number of professionals available to meet this demand. Directing the funding to areas with high rates of overdose death and mental health professional shortages will ensure that the neediest populations are served by this legislation.

The NBCC supports the Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act and is committed to passage of this legislation through Congress. Please contact me at bergman@nbcc.org or 703-739-6208 with any questions about this letter. Thank you for your leadership on this important policy.

Sincerely,

David M. Bergman
Vice President of Legal and External Affairs
National Board for Certified Counselors