

National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery, Inc.
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March 21, 2018

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Representative Greg Walden
Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives
Energy and Commerce Committee
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
Energy and Commerce Committee
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Affiliated Groups and Chapters

AZ NAMA Recovery, Boston NAMA Recovery

CT NAMA Recovery, CT Capitol NAMA Recovery

Delaware NAMA Recovery, DC WAMA NAMA Recovery

The MAG IND, Boston NAMA Recovery

Philadelphia NAMA Recovery, NJ NAMA-R Advocates

NYC NAMA Recovery, N Texas NAMA Recovery

New England NAMA Recovery (VT)

Wisconsin NAMA Recovery

RE: U.S. House of Representatives, Energy and Commerce –
Subcommittee on Health: “Combating the Opioid Crisis:
Prevention and Public Health Solutions;” Amendment in the
Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 3545 (“Overdose Prevention
and Patient Safety Act”)

International

Australian IV League, HOPE (Bulgaria)

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Brugerforeningen (Denmark), ACCES (France)

Methadone Indonesia, UISCE Ireland

Italy Gruppo SIMS, Recovering Nepal

LIBERATION (Poland), INTEGRATION (Romania)

Svenska BrukarForeningen (Sweden)

Methadone Alliance (UK)

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

The National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery (NAMA-Recovery) represents the thousands of patients receiving Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and those not able to do so because of barriers. NAMA Recovery *strongly supports maintaining the core protections of the federal substance use disorder patient confidentiality law (“42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2”) and regulations (“42 CFR Part 2”)* (referred to as “Part 2). Without these protections persons with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) needing treatment will be afraid to attempt to access treatment. Current patients that know about these attempts to void Part 2 are already considering to decide to taper because of the fear that prejudice will have on them and their families.

Projects

Medication Assisted Recovery Support Project (MARS)

Continued

Together, we can make a difference.

Furthermore once any information about addiction enters the general healthcare system patients will be denied life insurance, housing, employment, community services, education, vocational services as well as receiving poor medical care. There could be many unintended consequences of voiding Part 2, such as local police entering treatment programs to arrest patients. They currently sit outside looking for patients and pull patients over for driving under the influence that are leaving programs.

The stakes are high and patients need protection. The prejudice towards persons with a history of addiction have not improved since Part 2 was enacted but rather are worse. Currently we have a serious opioid epidemic and patients and persons entering treatment need protection.

No attempts have been made to even review the consequences that further changes to Part 2 could have. Fast decisions can result in adverse results. I implore you to consider any changes to Part 2 to be taken with thoughtfulness and extreme care.

Sincerely



Carmen Pearman-Art, LCSW, LCAC, CMA
President



Joycelyn Woods, MA, CARC, CPAS, CMA
Executive Director

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