



THE OFFICE OF SENATOR TELENA CRUZ NELSON

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN | 36th GUAM LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON

EDUCATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURAL
ADVANCEMENT

BORDER
PROTECTION AND
MARITIME
TRANSPORTATION

GUÅHAN
PRESERVATION AND
SELF-DETERMINATION

FEDERAL AND
FOREIGN RELATIONS

Transmitted Via Email:

frank.pallone@mail.house.gov

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Letter of Support– H.R. 2355, H.R. 2364, H.R. 2366, H.R. 2379, and H.R. 2405

Dear Chairman Pallone,

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! On behalf of the 36th Guam Legislature, I wish to express my support of H.R. 2355, H.R. 2364, H.R. 2366, and H.R. 2405, all relative to facilitating responsible and informed dispensation, use, and research of controlled substances, with specific focus on opioids. I'd like to further request that Guam be considered for eligibility for H.R. 2379, the "State Opioid Response Grant Authorization Act of 2021."

I have sponsored and introduced legislation that would require prescribers in Guam to register into our Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, establish a prescriber and patient contract, and ensure that patients are adequately informed of their options and alternatives to opioids. Approximately 42% of prescriptions are for opioids and while these medications are a powerful pain-reducing medication and have aided thousands of lives suffering from chronic pain, they are also highly addictive and pose several potentially harmful effects to our individuals and our community. Only 10% of prescribers on Guam actively use our PDMP database, making it difficult to adequately assess and address our opioid addiction. Supporting the health and safety of the community is a critical step towards curbing the island and the nation's rising opioid crisis and legislation and education should be at the first line of defense.

We thank you for your time and allowing me to express my dedication to the continued and necessary fight against the opioid abuse. Should you wish to contact our office, please reach us via email at senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org or through phone at +1(671) 989-7696.

Sincerely,

Senator Telena Cruz Nelson
Chairwoman, Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations
36th Guam Legislature

ADA'S PLAZA CENTER, STE 202 A, 173 ASPINALL AVENUE HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910
TEL: (671) 989-7696 / 4678 | EMAIL: senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org