
PARTNERSHIP TO AMEND 42 CFR PART 2

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Health Care Coalition Lauds Manchin and Capito's "Legacy Act"

Part 2 Coalition Applauds Bipartisan Senate Bill to Strengthen Addiction Treatment

Washington, DC (September 26, 2017) – The Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2, a coalition of over 35 health care organizations committed to helping the country end the opioid crisis, today issued the following statement in response to the introduction of the bipartisan Protecting Jessica Grubb's Legacy Act, (The Legacy Act), S. 1850, by Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

"We applaud Senators Manchin and Capito's leadership on the introduction of The Protecting Jessica Grubb's Legacy Act, as it will help ensure that persons with opioid and other substance use disorders receive the safe, effective, integrated health care treatment they need, while strengthening protections of their private records. -- *Rebecca Murow Klein, Chair, Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2 and Director of Government Affairs, Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness*

"This legislation addresses a major injustice in healthcare. Without ready access to substance use data, we relegate those struggling with addiction to substandard, incomplete care that can exacerbate their condition, lead to unnecessary emergency department visits and even death. And that's before we take into account the lost opportunity cost, where caregivers are denied an opportunity to develop treatment plans involving rehab and addiction counseling that could save lives. We applaud Senators Manchin and Capito for their leadership, and stand ready to do all we can to help enact this important reform. -- *Blair Childs, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, Premier, Inc.*

"The Healthcare Leadership Council applauds Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito for their legislation to safeguard individuals while allowing for vital health data to be shared. Providers rely on the availability of a patient's full medical record in order to achieve better outcomes when treating those with substance use disorders. This legislation is an important step in supporting coordinated care models that facilitate the flow of health information while maintaining confidentiality protections for patients." --*Mary R. Grealy, President, Healthcare Leadership Council*

"We thank Senators Machin and Capito for introducing this important legislation that helps ensure all clinicians involved in a person's care will get the full picture of their health, if the patient so chooses. This focus on coordinated care will enhance patient safety, mitigate the negative impact of co-occurring conditions and reduce the stigma associated with substance use treatment, all while retaining strong privacy protections. --*Kevin Scalia, Executive Vice President, Netsmart*

"Today, drug overdoses are the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 50. Continuing to treat addiction differently than other brain disorders or chronic diseases inhibits our nation's ability to truly address the drug crisis and provide patients with the highest quality treatment and the safest possible care. Similar to other chronic diseases, substance abuse and mental health disorders often require comprehensive, evidence-based treatment in order to achieve positive outcomes and build toward recovery. This legislation would allow providers access to vital patient information that will allow more individuals to receive timely, evidence-based care." -- *David Guth, CEO, Centerstone America.*

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<http://www.helpendopioidcrisis.org/>

Members of The Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2 include:

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy · Alliance of Community Health Plans · American Association on Health and Disability · American Dance Therapy Association · American Hospital Association · American Psychiatric Association · American Society of Addiction Medicine · American Society of Anesthesiologists · America's Essential Hospitals · America's Health Insurance Plans · AMGA · Ascension · Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare · Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness · Association for Community Affiliated Plans · Blue Cross Blue Shield Association · The Catholic Health Association of the United States · Centerstone · Corporation for Supportive Housing · Employee Assistance Professionals Association · Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice · Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation · Health IT Now · Healthcare Leadership Council/Confidentiality Coalition · InfoMC · The Joint Commission · The Kennedy Forum · Medicaid Health Plans of America · Mental Health America · National Alliance on Mental Illness · National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems · National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors · National Rural Health Association · Netsmart · Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. · Premier Healthcare Alliance · Smiths Medical