

May 21, 2018

The Honorable Joseph Crowley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ryan Costello  
U.S. House of Representatives  
326 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Crowley and Costello:

We are writing to thank you for your efforts to help build the workforce of addiction physician specialists in the United States and to give you our strong support and endorsement for your proposed legislation, "The Opioid Workforce Act of 2018" (H.R. 5818). This legislation would provide much needed Medicare support for an additional 1,000 graduate medical education positions over the next five years in teaching hospitals that have, or are in the process of establishing, accredited fellowship training programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain management. It would also provide support if needed for prerequisite residency training for physicians entering these fields.

While the opioid crisis is the current face of the problem of unhealthy substance use and addiction in the United States and needs immediate attention, it is important to remember that substance use related health conditions involve a wide range of addictive substances that often are used in sequence or simultaneously. Unless we train physicians to address these conditions in a comprehensive fashion and provide the full continuum of care from prevention and early intervention through treatment and long term disease management, we will simply continue to move from one crisis to the next.

To address these concerns, the field of Addiction Psychiatry, currently open to physicians boarded in psychiatry, has 47 fellowship training programs. The field of Addiction Medicine recently has obtained recognition by the American Board of Medical Specialties and the opportunity for accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Fellowship training in Addiction Medicine is open to all physicians and nearly all trainees have prior certification in a primary care field. Addiction Medicine currently has 52 fellowship training programs that will be applying for ACGME accreditation and a growing number of programs under development. The key challenge in expanding and sustaining these fellowship training programs has been the competition for training resources which this proposed legislation will address.

We greatly appreciate your recognition of the importance of addressing unhealthy substance use and addiction as critical healthcare problems and of your work to build an essential workforce of addiction physician specialists. In addition to preventing illness, improving health and saving lives, this trained workforce will save countless dollars by reducing the significant and costly health and social consequences that ensue from the current lack of quality care.

If we can provide any further information as you proceed with your deliberation, please let us know.

Sincerely,



President, The Addiction Medicine Foundation



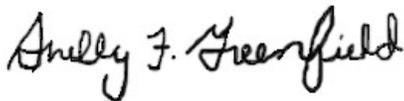


Randall Brown MD, PhD, DFASAM  
President, Addiction Medicine Fellowship Directors Association  
Director, University of Wisconsin Addiction Medicine Fellowship

**AMFDA**

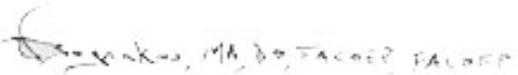


Kelly J. Clark, MD, MBA, DFASAM  
President, American Society of Addiction Medicine



Shelly Greenfield, MD  
President, American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry

**AAP** American Academy of  
Addiction Psychiatry  
Translating Science. Transforming Lives.



William Bograkas, M.A., D.O.  
President, American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine



May 21, 2018

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
U.S. Senate  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dean Heller  
U.S. Senate  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Nelson and Heller:

We are writing to thank you for your efforts to help build the workforce of addiction physician specialists in the United States and to give you our strong support and endorsement for your proposed legislation, "The Opioid Workforce Act of 2018" (S. 2843). This legislation would provide much needed Medicare support for an additional 1,000 graduate medical education positions over the next five years in teaching hospitals that have, or are in the process of establishing, accredited fellowship training programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain management. It would also provide support if needed for prerequisite residency training for physicians entering these fields.

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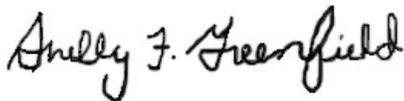


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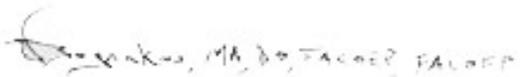
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