



April 8, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone,

On behalf of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and our nearly 40,000 members, thank you for your continued efforts to address the opioid use disorder (OUD) and substance use disorder (SUD) crisis through H.R. 2483 the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025. Emergency physicians are on the frontlines of our nation's response to the overlapping crises of mental illness, OUD/SUD, and overdose, and we are grateful for your commitment to and support for programs to strengthen prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts for individuals and families affected by these challenges.

As the health care safety net, emergency departments (EDs) often serve as the entry point to treatment for patients in crisis. Emergency physicians have witnessed first-hand the alarming rates of drug overdoses and overdose deaths, and every day we see the toll it takes on our patients, their families, and our communities. Thanks to ongoing collaborative efforts, many of which are made possible and enhanced by the programs authorized by the SUPPORT Act, we have made important strides in reversing the alarming increase in overdose deaths over the last several years. However, the rate of overdose deaths remains far too high, emphasizing that these programs are still critical in the fight against the OUD/SUD epidemic and overdose crisis, and further highlighting that there is still more to do to ensure that our patients are connected with the necessary longer-term treatment they need and deserve.

We urge the Committee to advance this reauthorization to continue supporting the federal response to the opioid and overdose epidemic and maintain these critical programs that are essential lifelines to patients and communities across the country. We also ask you to ensure that the agencies responsible for administering these programs are fully equipped with the financial resources and personnel necessary to carry out this mission. To truly confront the mental health and substance use crises gripping our nation, we need sustained, coordinated, and well-resourced efforts.

ACEP shares your commitment to addressing the opioid crisis, promoting evidence-based treatments for OUD and SUD, and ensuring access to timely mental health care. Should you have any questions or require more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ryan McBride, ACEP Congressional Affairs Director, at rmcbride@acep.org.

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Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Haddock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alison J. Haddock, MD, FACEP
President, American College of Emergency Physicians