



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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July 16, 2014

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to endorse “The Recovery Enhancement for Addiction Treatment Act (TREAT Act).”

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association representing all 141 accredited U.S. medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 128,000 faculty members, 83,000 medical students, and 110,000 resident physicians.

The TREAT Act takes important steps to increase access to care for patients addicted to opioids. As you know, medication-assisted therapy has proven an effective treatment for patients suffering from opioid addiction. However, under current law, qualified medical professionals are limited to providing medication-assisted therapy to no more than 100 patients per year. This restriction has led to wait lists and arbitrarily restricted access to life-saving care, including in our nation’s teaching hospitals that serve a significant number of substance abuse patients each year.

The legislation would increase the number of opioid patients qualified physicians are allowed to treat in the first year from 30 up to 100 per year. In addition, the legislation allows physicians who are substance abuse treatment specialists and non-specialist physicians who are practicing in qualified settings to request exemption from the patient limitation if certain training requirements are met. By identifying accredited residency and fellowship programs among the “qualified settings,” your bill will expand the ability of teaching physicians and hospitals to offer treatment to patients who need it.

The AAMC appreciates your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to working with you to secure enactment of this important legislation this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Atul Grover", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Atul Grover, M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Public Policy Officer