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June 20, 2014

Senator Edward J. Markey
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), the organization which represents the state health directors with programmatic responsibility for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and associated public health programs nationwide, appreciates your interest in and work to better address the treatment needs of people with substance use disorders. Your proposed legislation "Increased Access to Drug Addiction Treatment" is an imperative step in reducing barriers to lifesaving treatment among Americans with opioid addiction. We enthusiastically support your legislative efforts to increase access to buprenorphine for Americans seeking assistance with their opioid addiction.

Persons with substance use disorders are at increased risk of HIV and HCV infection, experience barriers to accessing health services, and are overdosing at unprecedented levels. In 2011, we released a [Statement of Commitment: Promoting Injecting Drug User Health](#), in which NASTAD and our members committed to explicitly identify and implement effective public health programs for people who inject drugs. This legislation is in line with our commitment to reducing unnecessary barriers for people who are seeking assistance in addressing their opioid addiction. By increasing the number of individuals a clinician can prescribe buprenorphine to in a year, as well as broadening the definition of eligible providers, this legislation will provide more treatment access options for communities devastated by the heroin and prescription drug epidemics throughout the nation.

Thank you for your leadership in introducing this legislation which will assist in reaching more persons seeking treatment for their opioid addiction. By more effectively supporting individuals through their recovery efforts, our nation will not only reduce overdoses – but will reduce HIV and HCV transmission among this population – and better address their mental and physical health needs.

NASTAD and our members look forward to the passage of this legislation and will continue to work to reduce negative health consequences of opioid addiction. Please contact me with questions at jscofield@NASTAD.org.

Sincerely,



Julie M. Scofield
Executive Director