

July 23, 2014

Honorable Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey,

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), representing the 192,000 nurse practitioners across this country, are writing to express support for the expansion of Buprenorphine treatment for opioid addiction in the “Recovery Enhancement for Addiction Treatment Act”.

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) deliver primary, specialized and community health care to patients of all walks of life in every setting and region, particularly among the rural and medically underserved. NPs have prescriptive authority in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, including controlled substances III- V in 49. The abuse and misuse of opioids are having a profoundly devastating effect on communities and families throughout our country. Nurse practitioners, working in every geographic area of this country, see and treat all types of patients including those with opioid addiction. Allowing NPs to prescribe Buprenorphine, as well as other medications that can be used in the treatment of opiate addiction, would increase access to this life-saving treatment. This authority is well within the NP scope of practice as governed by state law.

AANP looks forward to continued work with you in support of this important issue. We thank you for your commitment to assuring that nurse practitioners are authorized to prescribe and dispense this drug in the treatment of opioid addiction. Please let us know next steps and how we can help with this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Ken Miller, PhD, RN, CFNP, FAAN, FAANP
President
American Association of Nurse Practitioners