

November 30, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), our 36,000 members and the more than 136 million patients we treat every year, I am writing to express ACEP's support for the "21st Century Cures Act" and to urge its passage in the House this week.

ACEP has supported strong interoperability and data sharing provisions for electronic health record (EHR) technologies since the original 21st Century Cures Act was introduced in 2015. We are glad we could play an integral role in defining clinician-led clinical data registries to ensure this data is used to promote quality improvements and medical research. ACEP has spent innumerable resources over the past few years developing our qualified clinical data registry, Clinical Emergency Data Registry (CEDR), as part of our ongoing commitment to our patients and physician members to provide the highest quality of emergency care and these provisions are critical to its success.

ACEP has been very active promoting comprehensive mental health reforms over the past several years. We are very pleased to see the inclusion of many key provisions from the House and Senate legislative efforts to enact these reforms, such as: creating an Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Lab; extending the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) grants and instituting grants for Assertive Community Treatment; establishing liability protections for health professional volunteers at Community Health Centers; extending suicide prevention programs; reauthorizing grants to help train emergency medical personnel to recognize individuals with mental health issues and how to intervene; encouraging CDC to improve its National Violent Death Reporting System; expanding the mental health workforce; clarifying HIPAA privacy rules for patients with mental illness and their caregivers; eliminating the Medicaid same-day exclusion; seeking additional information about Medicaid managed care plan provision of services for adults at an Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD); studying participation in the Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Demonstration Project; and enhancing compliance with mental health and substance use disorder insurance coverage, among other things.

ACEP actively supported the important policy changes incorporated in the "Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act" (CARA) earlier this year and we have advocated for full funding of these programs since its enactment. The \$1 billion over two years included in this legislation to supplement opioid abuse prevention and treatment activities will help us care for our patients who have suffered from opioid overdose and misuse, as well as help end this terrible epidemic.

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

2121 K Street NW, Suite 325
Washington, DC 20037-1886

202-728-0610
800-320-0610
202-728-0617 (FAX)
www.acep.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rebecca B. Parker, MD, FACEP
President
Paul D. Kivela, MD, MBA, FACEP
President-Elect
John J. Rogers, MD, CPE, FACEP
Chair of the Board
William P. Jaquis, MD, FACEP
Vice President
Vidor E. Friedman, MD, FACEP
Secretary-Treasurer
Jay A. Kaplan, MD, FACEP
Immediate Past President
Stephen H. Anderson, MD, FACEP
James J. Augustine, MD, FACEP
Jon Mark Hirshon, MD, PhD, MPH, FACEP
Hans R. House, MD, FACEP
Christopher S. Kang, MD, FACEP
Kevin M. Klauer, DO, EJD, FACEP
Debra G. Perina, MD, FACEP
Mark S. Rosenberg, DO, MBA, FACEP
Gillian Schmitz, MD, FACEP

COUNCIL OFFICERS

James M. Cusick, MD, FACEP
Speaker
John G. McManus, Jr, MD, MBA, FACEP
Vice Speaker

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dean Wilkerson, JD, MBA, CAE

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation for reauthorizing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and for providing this agency with an additional \$4.8 billion in funding over the next decade. These resources will help advance the NIH's efforts to address disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment and, perhaps equally important, require grant recipients to share the data generated from NIH-funded research that will help support and promote all medical research.

This legislation will provide significant benefits to the millions of patients we treat every year in America's emergency departments. Thank you for your leadership on these important issues. Please let me know if there is anything further ACEP can do to support enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca B. Parker, MD, FACEP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca B. Parker, MD, FACEP
ACEP President

CC: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable Steve Scalise
The Honorable Fred Upton
The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Diana DeGette
The Honorable Kevin Brady
The Honorable Sander Levin
The Honorable Tim Murphy
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson