



The Honorable Phil Roe
U.S. House of Representatives
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris
U.S. House of Representatives
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera
U.S. House of Representatives
1727 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2019

Dear Representatives Roe, Ruiz, Harris, and Bera:

On behalf of the CME Coalition, I want to thank you for introducing H.Con.Res.8 to express support for the need to improve and expand training for physicians on properly treating pain and prescribing opioids.

Founded in 2011, the Continuing Medical Education (CME) Coalition is comprised of nearly fifty CME providers, beneficiaries (including both educational institutions and professional societies), and supporters of CME (such as pharmaceutical manufacturers and device makers) that exists to advocate for the merits of accredited continuing medical education. The CME Coalition's member organizations manage and support the development of health care continuing medical education (CME) programs that impact more than 500,000 physicians, nurses, and pharmacists annually, and understand the potential in using this reach to better educate health care providers about the inherent risks in prescribing opioid medications.

Over the last 20 years, some clinicians have prescribed opioids without adequate training surrounding their abuse potential, leading to improper prescribing practices that have contributed to the national scourge of opioid addiction. Meanwhile, as opioid abuse has become a national crisis, many providers have become reluctant to prescribe opioid pain relievers, leading some chronic pain patients — which encompasses nearly one third of the U.S. population — to go without any appropriate treatment. CME has proven to be a critical resource in educating physicians on the potential for abuse and addiction in prescribing opioid medications, and has been found to reliably change health professionals' knowledge and competence, as evidenced in their performance and patient health outcomes.

Your support for greater provider education on responsible opioid use and prescribing is vitally important to ending the epidemic while maintaining access to treatment for chronic pain patients.

Although no “silver bullet” solution exists, your resolution championing greater pain management training will help encourage future education for opioid prescribers, ultimately improving patient outcomes and reducing the number of American lives impacted by or lost to opioids.

Thank you, again, for your efforts to highlight the importance of medical education as a means of improving our Nation’s health.

Sincerely,



Chris Lamond
Executive Director, CME Coalition



Andrew Rosenberg
Senior Advisor, CME Coalition