



September 15, 2021

The Honorable Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

On behalf of the [Continuing Medical Education \(CME\) Coalition](#), I am writing in support of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act 3.0 Act of 2021 (S.987), which you introduced earlier this year.

Founded in 2011, the CME Coalition represents a collection of continuing medical education stakeholders throughout the United States, in addition to other supporters of CME. Our member organizations manage and support development of healthcare continuing education programs that impact more than 500,000 physicians, nurses and pharmacists annually.

Graduation from medical school and completion of residency training are the first steps in a careerlong educational process for physicians. To take advantage of the growing array of diagnostic and treatment options, physicians must continually update their technical knowledge and practice skills. CME is a mainstay for such learning. Most State licensing authorities require physicians to complete a certain number of hours of accredited CME within prescribed timeframes to maintain their medical licenses. Hospitals and other institutions may impose additional CME requirements upon physicians who practice at their facilities.

More than 400,000 medical journal articles are published each year, making the practice of medicine very dynamic. The sheer volume of new scientific data and changes in medicine requires as many appropriate avenues for funding certified CME as possible. In addition, the changes to practice in medicine occur rapidly. The nature of medicine involves constant advancement, testing, and application; it also features landmark breakthroughs, such as the discovery and testing of novel therapeutic agents.

Changes in medicine often are revolutionary. Patients and society demand that our physicians receive information instantaneously, and that updates in treatment, diagnosis, and prevention are disseminated to physicians as soon as practically possible. Without CME, health care practitioners cannot get the most recent and up-to-date advances.

The CME Coalition wholeheartedly endorses your legislation, which requires prescribers of controlled substances to complete CME course work every three years

and provides \$5,000,000 in funding for health education and training grants under the Public Health Service Act. We look forward to your bill's consideration and passage by the full Senate.

We appreciate that you understand the importance of enhancing physician access to independent continuing education, especially as a means of combating the scourge of opioid abuse, and your leadership is invaluable to us.

We further thank you for your support on this important issue and look forward to working with you to drive greater support for the bill, as well as serving as a subject matter resource to you as the legislative process continues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Lamond".

Chris Lamond
Executive Director
CME Coalition
Washington, DC