



National District Attorneys Association
Staff Contact: Frank Russo
703-519-1655 or frusso@ndaajustice.org
www.ndaa.org

March 2nd, 2021

The Honorable Paul Tonko
2369 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Mike Turner
2082 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko & Congressman Turner,

I am reaching out on behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), the oldest and largest national organization representing state and local prosecutors in the country. With more than 5,000 members nationwide, NDAA is recognized as the leading source of national expertise on the prosecution function and is a valuable resource for the media, academia, government, and community leaders. Today, I write in support of the *Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act of 2021*.

As the nation continues to confront the ongoing pandemic, State and local prosecutors continue to see an increase in overdoses and abuse of opioids and other drugs. These dueling American health crises call for Congress to take reasonable steps to protect the American people and ensure we can appropriately respond to the growth in substance abuse. NDAA is confident that the *MAT Act of 2021* takes the appropriate steps to promote community safety by removing a federal barrier that currently requires health care practitioners to obtain a waiver from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) before prescribing buprenorphine, one of three drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat opioid use disorder (OUD).

Passing this legislation will expand access to the life-saving care that is needed across the country as we address the ongoing substance abuse crisis. The proposed bill will put both law enforcement and the health care communities in the position to best treat this disorder. We thank you for your tireless efforts to address this ongoing public health crisis and look forward to working alongside you and your staff to ensure law enforcement and health care providers have the tools needed to protect those that we serve every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy G. Parr".

Nancy G. Parr
NDAA President