



Matthew Eyles
President and CEO

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Joe Manchin
United States Senate
306 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
172 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Manchin and Capito:

On behalf of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), we are writing to express our support for S. 1012, the "Protecting Jessica Grubb's Legacy Act." We appreciate your leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation.

Health insurance providers are strongly committed to improving care coordination, patient safety, and health outcomes for patients struggling with opioid addiction and other substance use disorders (SUDs). Your bipartisan bill would support these efforts by aligning existing federal regulations (42 CFR Part 2) on the confidentiality of SUD information with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act's existing privacy requirements for uses and disclosures of individuals' health information for treatment, payment, and health care operations.

Your bill would require that the medical records of patients with SUDs be treated the same as the medical records of patients with other chronic illnesses. By ensuring appropriate access to a patient's entire medical record (including addiction-related information), S. 1012 would ensure that health care professionals and health insurance providers have all the information necessary for safe, effective, high quality treatment and care coordination to address the full scope of a patient's health care needs.

By contrast, the current federal regulations can serve as a barrier to whole-person, integrated approaches to care that produce the best health outcomes for patients. By limiting access to critical patient information, the current rules can impede the integration of services and supports for patients. This, in turn, can lead to patient harm, including problems with contraindicated prescriptions and medication adherence.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. Now is the time to modernize federal regulations on the confidential sharing of SUD information to help ensure that people receive safe, coordinated, whole-person care. We look forward to continuing to work with you to build support for legislative action on your bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Eyles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Eyles
President and CEO