

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia M. Burwell
Secretary
Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell,

Given our shared concern about the growing rate of overdose deaths associated with prescription painkillers and heroin in Appalachia and throughout the nation, we urge the Administration to ensure that overdose prevention, specifically through the use of naloxone, remains a priority issue. Despite the life-saving capabilities of naloxone, its use in overdose related death prevention is not yet widespread.

We call on the Administration to identify existing sources of funding which can be reprogrammed to provide adequate financial assistance for state and local governments, as well as community organizations, to purchase and distribute naloxone to first responders, law enforcement officials, medical facilities, and members of at-risk individuals' communities. We know that expanding naloxone access to a broader population, combined with immediately seeking emergency medical care, can reverse drug overdoses and save lives.

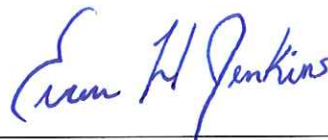
In addition, we call on the Administration to propose and implement innovative ways to integrate naloxone throughout the health care delivery system. For example, HHS should act to establish and promote best practices for co-prescribing naloxone with certain opioid formulations and in certain patient populations.

Tragically, too many Americans have been lost to opioid overdose, and many of those deaths are preventable. We look forward to working with you on this issue to develop a strategy that provides resources to improve naloxone availability and save lives. We appreciate your consideration of these proposals and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



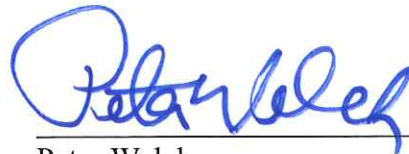
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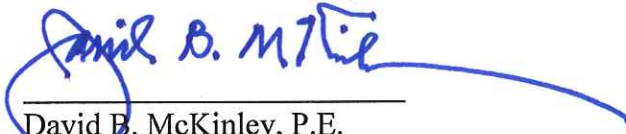
Katherine Clark
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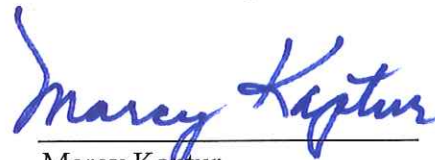
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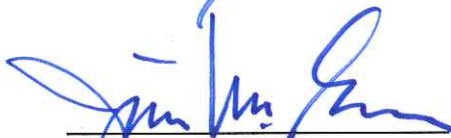
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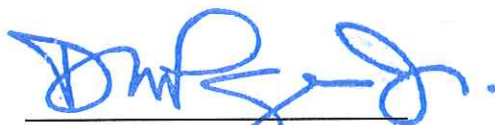
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cc: Shaun Donovan, Director, OMB
Michael Botticelli, Director, ONDCP