



**JAMES L. MADARA, MD**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

ama-assn.org  
t (312) 464-5000

November 3, 2017

The Honorable Richard Neal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
341 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Neal:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 4097, the “Medicare Beneficiary Opioid Addiction Treatment Act.” The AMA commends you for introducing this important bill, which would allow Medicare beneficiaries access to critical opioid addiction treatment medication, i.e., methadone, in outpatient and physician settings.

While methadone and other Medication Assisted Treatments (MAT) are effective, evidence-based treatments for opioid use disorder, methadone is covered under Medicare Part D only when prescribed for pain, but not when given as part of an opioid use disorder treatment program. The AMA has long called for expansion of MAT, and we are pleased that the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis’ final recommendations recognize that Medicare’s lack of coverage for methadone and other MAT create treatment barriers for the many Medicare patients who need outpatient services. Removing this barrier, which your bill would do, is particularly important since opioid use disorder is a large and growing problem among Medicare beneficiaries.

Thank you again for sponsoring this bill, and we look forward to working with you on its enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James L. Madara, MD