

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

Minority (202) 225-3641

August 28, 2019

Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D.
Assistant Secretary for Health
Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Opioid Policy
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington DC 20201

Dear Admiral Giroir,

We write to request an update on the status of the implementation of section 7021 of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act, or the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act,¹ which directed the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a public information dashboard linking to HHS programs and publicly available data related to opioid and other substance use disorders.

The SUPPORT Act was one of the most significant congressional efforts against a single drug crisis in history. The legislation consisted of numerous breakthrough bipartisan initiatives to combat the ongoing opioid crisis and was a crucial step to prevent diversion, abuse, and overdoses resulting from prescription and synthetic pharmaceuticals. By increasing access to treatment, enhancing prevention efforts, bolstering law enforcement, and helping reduce the excessive distribution of opioids for pain treatment in our communities, the SUPPORT Act made meaningful steps in tackling the addiction crisis impacting the nation.

The SUPPORT Act incorporated important language from H.R. 4284, Indexing Narcotics, Fentanyl, and Opioids (INFO) Act, which required the HHS Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Office National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), to establish and update periodically an Internet website serving as a public information dashboard linking the public with federal resources and programs addressing substance use disorder. It also required the HHS Secretary and ONDCP Director to establish an Interdepartmental Substance Use Disorders Coordinating Committee to coordinate substance use disorder research, services, supports, and

¹ Public Law No: 115-271

prevention activities across all relevant federal agencies. These two initiatives in H.R. 4284 became section 7021 and section 7022 of the SUPPORT Act, respectively.

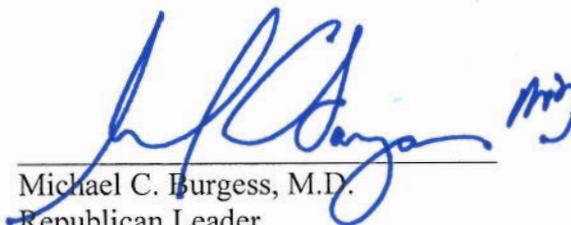
While HHS has announced the creation of the Interdepartmental Substance Use Disorders Coordinating Committee and is seeking member nominations, is critically important for HHS to establish the substance use disorder information dashboard. This dashboard was intended to be an easily accessible electronic hub for the public, providing links to information on programs within HHS related to the reduction of opioid and other substance use disorders, along with access to the publicly available data from HHS agencies and other relevant entities such as medical experts, nonprofit organizations, law enforcement, and research institutions. The dashboard also was supposed to provide data on substance use disorder prevention and treatment strategies in different regions of and populations in the United States, identify information on alternatives to controlled substances for pain management, and identify guidelines and best practices for health care providers regarding treatment of substance use disorders.

We request that you provide us with a briefing on the implementation of the information dashboard by September 13, 2019. Please contact Kristen Shatynski with the Committee staff at 202-225-3641. The opioid crisis is devastating our country, undermining our social structures, and eroding our economic productivity. The information dashboard authorized in section 7021 of the SUPPORT Act is a much-needed tool for the patients and families we represent, and it will help further turn the tide in our fight against this crisis.

Sincerely,



Greg Walden
Republican Leader



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Health



Robert E. Latta
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology



Brett Guthrie
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations