

PRESIDENT SIGNS *SUPPORT ACT*

BIPARTISAN OPIOID RESPONSE ACT INCLUDES PROVISIONS THAT MAY BENEFIT NFP FAMILIES

OCTOBER 31, 2018

Substance use—particularly the misuse and addiction to opioid pain relievers—is a public health crisis in the United States, and increasingly impacts some of the most vulnerable members of society: pregnant women and their babies. **Last Wednesday, President Trump signed H.R. 6, the Substance Use–Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act).** Designed to combat the opioid crisis impacting communities across the country, the bill includes provisions related to the financing and delivery of substance abuse treatment, public health efforts to prevent opioid misuse, and improved enforcement of laws preventing the illegal distribution of illicit drugs.

Several provisions of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act could provide benefit to families struggling with substance abuse that NFP serves:

- Improves access to mental health and substance use disorder services for children and pregnant women under CHIP;
- Improves access to, and payment for, medication assisted treatment;
- Provides grants to states to coordinate plans of safe care for the well-being of infants affected by substance abuse, including coordination with MIECHV programs.
- Allows limited Medicaid payment for individuals receiving inpatient treatment for substance use disorders in an institute for mental disease (IMD);
- Provides option for Medicaid payment of residential pediatric recovery centers for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome; and
- Requires that HHS issue guidance and recommendations to states on the financing and delivery under Medicaid and CHIP of evidence-based services (including home visiting) for parents with substance use disorders, infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome.

The NFP National Service Office will continue working to advance policies that acknowledge the role that programs like NFP have in fighting the opioid epidemic, and that improve the health and well-being of the moms and babies that we serve. **Please see [this fact sheet](#) for more information on NFP's work related to substance abuse.**

As the SUPPORT Act is implemented we will communicate relevant information to our local network partners and stakeholders. For questions or more information about the SUPPORT Act, please contact Teri Weathers, Director of Federal Policy and Government Affairs, at teri.weathers@nursefamilypartnership.org.