

Expanding Access to Medication Assisted Treatment

Community Health Centers support SB2019/HB2060, sponsored by Senator Reeves and Representative T. Hicks, to expand access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Opioid Use Disorder at Federally Qualified Health Centers and Community Mental Health Centers.

- Federally Qualified Health Centers are subject to federal oversight and regulation from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and many health centers are also accredited through the Joint Commission or certified as Patient-Centered Medical Homes through the National Committee on Quality Assurance.
- Given their locations in underserved urban and rural areas of the state, FQHCs employ many providers such as nurse practitioners and physician assistants to expand access to care.
- Nurse practitioners and physician assistants at FQHCs and CMHCs are permitted to prescribe buprenorphine for MAT within the requirements passed by the General Assembly in 2019.
- When providing MAT, health centers include robust behavioral health services.
- Health centers that provide MAT are experiencing high demand and are unable to serve all patients who need this service.



SB2019/HB2060 would allow providers in these settings to provide critical treatment to more patients by:

- Increasing the number of patients that an NP or PA could prescribe buprenorphine to from 50 to 100 patients
- Increasing the number of NPs and PAs prescribing buprenorphine that can be supervised by a physician from 4 to 5

Please support SB2019/HB2060.



Questions? Contact the TPCA Policy Team

Libby Thurman, Chief Executive Officer
libby.thurman@tnpca.org
615.329.3836

Emily Waitt, Policy & Advocacy Manager
emily.waitt@tnpca.org
615.425.5849