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April 17, 2018

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren,

I am writing on behalf of the Massachusetts Medical Society, representing more than 25,000 physicians and physicians in training, to express our support for the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. This legislation, which is modeled on the successful Ryan White Act, directs funds to states, counties, local facilities, and tribal nations to provide prevention, treatment, and recovery programs to those who are most in need. The bill also authorizes critical funding for federal research into developing additional evidence-based methods for preventing substance use disorder as well as funds to increase the health care workforce trained to help these patients.

The CARE act would authorize \$100 billion in new funds over 10 years. Specifically:

- \$4 billion annually to states, territories and tribal governments;
- \$2.7 billion annually to the hardest hit counties;
- \$1.8 billion per year for public health surveillance, biomedical research and training for health professionals;
- \$1 billion per year to support expanded and innovative service delivery;
- \$500 million per year to expand access to naloxone to first responders, public health departments and the public.

There is much about this bill that is laudable. The legislation seeks to provide a comprehensive array of services at the local level including prevention, treatment, harm reduction, core medical, and other recovery and support care. We also applaud the CARE Act's support for additional training for health care professionals to improve screening, treatment and access to care for these patients. Critical shortages in the availability of trained physicians, as well as other essential health care professionals, are intensifying this crisis. We also strongly support funds for improved access to all forms of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and increased access to naloxone.

Fighting the opioid misuse and substance use disorder crisis is the Massachusetts Medical Society's top public health priority. The CARE Act is a well-designed bill designed to provide a comprehensive array of services to those who are most at risk.

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We applaud your leadership and commitment to fighting for these patients. Your proposed legislation will help physicians and other health care professionals get the tools they need to do a better job of screening, to prevent substance use disorder, and to treat more effectively our patients who are suffering from this disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. L. Dorkin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Henry L Dorkin, M.D., F.A.A.P.

cc: Beth Pearson
Julia Frederick
Ashley Coulombe