Urge Legislators to Find a Bipartisan and Comprehensive Approach to the Opioid Crisis that Leaves No One Behind

The opioid crisis is affecting every community across the nation. And, while many state legislatures have enacted targeted measures to address the crisis, a coordinated nationwide strategy that prioritizes the use of federal funding is required to support state and local opioid efforts as well as those of hospitals and community-based organizations.

When multiple levels of government try to address an issue, confusion and duplication of efforts can ensue. That's why ensuring that federal and state approaches are as consistent as possible across all states will also serve to reduce any undue burden on providers and front-line responders.

Finally, to ensure that no patients are left behind, Trinity Health strongly urges that any public policies intended to reduce inappropriate use of opioids do not simultaneously create access barriers to pain management for patients for whom opioids are medically indicated and who are benefiting from such treatments, including cancer, palliative, hospice and chronic care patients.

Committed to putting the people and communities at the center of every behavior, action and decision, Trinity Health is broadly collaborating—through its Opioid Utilization Reduction (OUR) initiative—for system-wide development of impactful, patient-centered safe and appropriate opioid utilization stewardship strategies to address the opioid epidemic. Through its Reducing Opioid Harm: Promoting People Centered Care policy card, Trinity Health outlines several important public policy initiatives. Trinity health has also detailed much of this work through a series of comment letters to federal agencies as well as Congressional committees investigating and hosting hearings on potential solutions.

Throughout this work developing opioid misuse legislation one thing is very clear, this complex problem could be most successfully addressed in Congress with a bipartisan solution that builds on a variety of initiatives at the local, state and federal levels, and that leaves no one behind.

What are you asking me to do?

Now is your opportunity to Take Action, by sending an email, and urging your members of Congress to work with their colleagues across the aisle on a number of issues that ultimately will provide a comprehensive approach to the opioid crisis. Because we have an eAdvocacy system, you can directly email your elected officials to let your voice be heard. You can complete the entire process within a few minutes and clicks of the mouse.

The Process...When filling out the relevant information about yourself—including your home address—and hitting submit, you will be taken to the Take Action Center where you will be provided a message already prepared for you. Please note that when sending any message, you can review, personalize and finalize the message prior to your submission. Please add any personal or professional details you feel would enhance the information you’re sending to your elected officials.
FAQ on Digital Advocacy

Do my messages really matter?

Elected officials pay close attention to communications from constituents (yes, you!). Your messages educate your elected officials about the issues and explain why you feel he/she should take action. As one of many similar contacts from others across the country, it can greatly impact the way legislators choose to act. We elect the government that makes the rules and regulations under which we all live and work. Let your voice be heard, lead the way and take action today.

Why is this important?

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, in 2016 116 individuals died every day from an opioid-related drug overdose. At the epicenter of this issue, health systems and hospitals must play a critical role in addressing the opioid use and misuse through prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery initiatives.

Trinity Health strongly believes this can be accomplished by building awareness, education and engagement across all stakeholders including patients, providers, pharmacists, families and communities. It is also important that solutions and resources are coordinated across local, state and federal levels of government.

Supporting a whole-person approach to meet the full range of an individual's physical, behavioral and social support needs in an integrated fashion is key to recognizing that multiple issues impact a patient’s experience of pain as well as his/her health and wellness. It’s also crucial that prevention through communication, transparency and accountability be enhanced across all stakeholders. Finally, no legislation would be complete without breaking down barriers to effective treatment and recovery including reducing stigma, supporting community education about the issue, and ensuring appropriate insurance coverage so that no one is left behind.

Now is your opportunity to Take Action, by sending an email, asking your legislators to find comprehensive approaches to the opioid crisis.

What Else Can I do?

Once you've taken action, please take the opportunity to share your views via email and social media. There are links within the Take Action engagement that require just a few clicks to advance to your network of friends and family. You can also follow Trinity Health’s social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, where you can easily share important engagement opportunities as well. Working together, we can make a difference by reducing opioid harm and promoting people-centered care.