

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

February 16, 2018

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments to the Senate Finance Committee on opioid legislation. We appreciate [redacted] to addressing the opioid epidemic that has affected millions of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. We offer input on policies [redacted]

babies require extended time in the hospital and more complex treatment options than babies born without NAS. In 2012, the average length of stay (LOS) for NAS babies was 16.9 days compared to 2.1 days for normal birth babies.<sup>viii</sup>

From 2000 to 2012 in the United S

**Building resilience for mothers and families by focusing on social services connections, mental and behavioral health and parenting support:** Linking families with needed mental, behavioral, and social services should be accounted for in value



---

Chicago

<sup>v</sup> Davies, H., Gilbert, R., Johnson, K., Petersen, I., Nazareth, I., O'donnell, M., & Gonzalez-Izquierdo, A. (2015). Neonatal drug withdrawal syndrome: cross-country comparison using hospital administrative data in England, the USA, Western Australia and Ontario, Canada. *Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition*, fetalneonatal-2015.

<sup>vi</sup> Bagley, S. M., Wachman, E. M., Holland, E., & Brogly, S. B. (2014). Review of the assessment and management of neonatal abstinence syndrome. *Addiction science & clinical practice*, 9(1), 19.

<sup>vii</sup> Jones, H. E., & Fielder, A. (2015). Neonatal abstinence syndrome: Historical perspective, current focus, future directions. *Preventive medicine*, 80, 12-17.

<sup>viii</sup> Patrick, S. W., Schumacher, R. E., Benneyworth, B. D., Krans, E. E., McAllister, J. M., & Davis, M. M. (2012). Neonatal abstinence syndrome and associated health care expenditures: United States, 2000-2009. *Jama*, 307(18), 1934-1940.

<sup>ix</sup>

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/infographics/dramatic-increases-in-maternal-opioid-use-neonatal-abstinence-syndrome>

<sup>x</sup> Patrick, S. W., Davis, M. M., Lehmann, C. U., & Cooper, W. O. (2015). Increasing incidence and geographic distribution of neonatal abstinence syndrome: United States 2009 to 2012. *Journal of Perinatology*, 35(8), 650-655.

<sup>xi</sup> Newborn Health: Federal Action Needed to Address Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. (2017, October 4). Retrieved October 4, 2017, from The Government Accountability Office website: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/690/687581.pdf>

<sup>xii</sup> Patrick, S. W., Schumacher, R. E., Horbar, J. D., Buus-Frank, M. E., Edwards, E. M., Morrow, K. A., ... & Soll, R. F. (2016). Improving care for neonatal abstinence syndrome. *Pediatrics*, e20153835.

<sup>xiii</sup> Hall, E. S., Wexelblatt, S. L., Crowley, M., Grow, J. L., Jasin, L. R., Klebanoff, M. A., ... & Walsh, M. C. (2015).

Implementation of a neonatal abstinence syndrome weaning protocol: a multicenter cohort study. *Pediatrics*, 136(4), e803-e810.

<sup>xiv</sup> Wilson, D. & Shiffman, J. (2015). Newborns die after being sent home with mothers struggling to kick drug addictions.

Reuters Investigates. Retrieved from <http://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/baby-opioids/>

<sup>xv</sup> Short, V. L., Gannon, M., Weingarten, W., Kaltenbach, K., LaNoue, M., & Abatemarco, D. J. (2017). Reducing Stress Among Mothers in Drug Treatment: A Description of a Mindfulness Based Parenting Intervention. *Maternal and child health journal*, 21(6), 1377-1386.

<sup>xvi</sup> Miller, T. R. (2015). Projected outcomes of nurse-family partnership home visitation during 1996-2013, USA. *Prevention Science*, 16(6), 765-777.

<sup>xvii</sup> Miller, T. R. (2015). Projected outcomes of nurse-family partnership home visitation during 1996-2013, USA. *Prevention Science*, 16(6), 765-777.