



## **Take Action**

### **Ask Congress to Include Coalition Priorities in Final Opioid Legislation**

On July 6 the House and Senate Opioid Conference Committee will convene to continue negotiations on a final legislative package.

It is expected the pace of negotiations will accelerate and agreement on a conference report could be reached as early as next week, although timing of a final vote is uncertain.

Conferees remain divided on two key issues of primary importance to the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose:

1. Improving access to treatment for those with opioid addiction, including medication-assisted treatment; and
2. Funding to implement the programs and policies included in a final conference agreement.

With a limited window to influence the final negotiated legislative package, Coalition members are strongly encouraged to activate their grassroots this week. At this time it appears certain the final package will include the Coalition's other priorities, including expanded access to naloxone.

The message to Congress is simple and straightforward:

- Any opioid legislative package must include new funding for opioid misuse and overdose prevention, addiction treatment, and recovery support services.
- Congress must raise physician patient limits for office-based opioid addiction treatment and permanently allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants to treat patients with addiction medications in the office setting.

The Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose has drafted a template letter that your grassroots can use to contact their members of Congress. Coalition members are also encouraged to provide their grassroots advocates a link to the Coalition's "[Take Action](#)" portal through which they can quickly and easily email a letter to lawmakers.