



**American Hospital
Association®**

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June 17, 2015

The Honorable Katherine Clark
United States House of Representatives
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clark:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 43,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to express support for the Protecting Our Infants Act (S.799/H.R. 1462).

This legislation addresses the prevention and treatment of infants born dependent on opioids, such as prescription pain killers or heroin. Specifically, this legislation directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategy to address research and program gaps, as well as to develop recommendations to decrease the number of infants suffering from opioid dependency. The bill also would encourage the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to work with states to improve their public health response to this epidemic.

Research has shown the incidence of infants born dependent on opioids has increased at least 300 percent over the past 15 years. Your legislation is a positive step toward addressing this critical public health issue.

We applaud your leadership in this area, and fully support S.799/H.R. 1462. We look forward to working with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

