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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0912

February 22, 2018

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The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

Congratulations on your recent confirmation as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. In light of the ongoing opioid crisis, I would like answers to the following:

1. What are the current standards for interoperability of state Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) with federal programs and health information technology systems?
2. What is the current status on the interoperability of state PDMPs with federal programs and health information technology systems and whether state programs provide automatic, up-to-date, or daily information about a patient upon request? What challenges still exist?
3. Since last Congress, how much funding has been appropriated towards implementing 42 U.S.C. 280g-3 (or Public Law 109-60, the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act [NASPER] amended and reauthorized as Public Law 114-198)?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress