



# AIMED ALLIANCE



## ASHIRA VANTREES, COUNSEL S.3257 SUPPORTER

### **What can you tell us about Aimed Alliance?**

Aimed Alliance is a non-profit health policy organization that seeks to protect and enhance the rights of health care consumers and providers. Aimed Alliance supports laws, regulations, and policies that encourage or require health care to be accessible, culturally competent, efficient, ethical, safe, and transparent. We believe that health care industry stakeholders should support patient and provider decision-making, and third-party administrative requirements should not act as a barrier to patients' ability to access their necessary and life-saving treatments.

### **Why is Aimed Alliance supporting passage of S.3257 before the end of 2022?**

At Aimed Alliance, we've consistently advocated for patients to be able to access to their medication as swiftly as possible, whether through increasing guardrails on step-therapy protocols or reducing provider barriers in treating their patients. In our view, passing S.3257 is a common sense solution to a critical issue for the nearly 1.6 million individuals in the United States who are living with an opioid use disorder. For many of these individuals accessing treatment is difficult due to a lack of capacity at federally regulated treatment clinics, limited resources in rural communities, and lack of access to consistent and reliable transportation. Passing S.3257 would expand the opportunities for accessing OUD treatments and ensure individuals have sufficient time to receive those treatments.

Moreover, while well-intentioned, the 14-day rule does not fulfill its intended purpose. The 14-day rule was implemented to reduce opportunities for diversion. However, a 2020 Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report found surveyed providers stated that the risk of buprenorphine diversion was already low due to the manner in which buprenorphine is administered. Thus, this rule does not provide the protection it was intended to but rather merely acts as a barrier to care for patients with OUD. Therefore, Aimed Alliance strongly supports passing S.3257 before the end of 2022 to reduce barriers in care and increase patient access to OUD treatments.