FROM KATHERINE B. MCGUIRE, APA CHIEF ADVOCACY OFFICER
For the Week of November 18–22, 2019

In this issue:

- Working to Secure Investment in Education Research
- Partnering to Ensure Timely Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Collaborating on Gun Violence Prevention

APA is a powerful voice on issues that are unique to the science and practice of psychology—and we become even more powerful when we work in coalitions with other scientific societies, health provider organizations, patient advocates and private industry. Through coalition leadership and partnerships, APA is successfully expanding its impact on a broader range of public policy issues of importance to our members.

This week, several APA efforts showcase how we’re working with others to increase our voice:

**Working to Secure Investment in Education Research**

APA banded with fellow science coalition partners through the Friends of the Institute of Education Science (IES) to send a letter to the House and Senate appropriators, highlighting the need to increase funding for education research. The letter expresses the education and scientific community’s concerns for core statistical surveys that inform our knowledge on the condition of education, research and the dissemination of evidence-based practices. IES, located in the U.S. Department of Education, invests in education research, statistical programs and evidence-based resources. The House proposed an increase to $650 million in fiscal year 2020 funding for IES to strengthen its ability to support emerging lines of inquiry, as well as address important questions related to education.

*For more information, contact Angela L. Sharpe, MG, at asharpe@apa.org.*

**Partnering to Ensure Timely Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment**

APA has joined with the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose to support the Reducing Barriers to Substance Use Treatment Act (H.R. 3925), bipartisan legislation sponsored by Reps. Paul Tonko (D-N.Y.) and David McKinley (R-W.V.). The bill would prohibit state-run Medicaid programs from imposing prior authorization and other utilization control procedures for medication-assisted treatment. Read our [letter to the coalition](#).

*For more information, contact Laurel Stine, JD, at lstine@apa.org.*

**Collaborating on Gun Violence Prevention**

Partnering with diverse stakeholders to tackle the public health issue of gun violence prevention continues to be an APA top priority. This week APA met with former Rep. Gabby Giffords (D-Ariz.) to discuss advocacy efforts urging Congress to appropriate dedicated funding at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health to research gun violence. Moreover, APA also participated in and contributed psychological science to a summit hosted by the American Bar Association aimed at developing partnerships in the health, education and advocacy communities to influence policymakers on the importance of addressing gun violence prevention.

*For more information, contact Ben Vonachen at bvonachen@apa.org or Craig Fisher, PsyD, at cfisher@apa.org.*