



COLORADO
PHARMACISTS
SOCIETY

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Dear Region 4 Opioid Abatement Council Members,

The Colorado Pharmacists Society is pleased to offer our strong support for Epifluence's Region 4 Open Grant application and their innovative strategy to expand access to medication for opioid use disorder in rural Colorado.

Across the state, pharmacists are increasingly recognized as essential members of the healthcare team and trusted healthcare professionals within their communities. This role is particularly important in rural and frontier areas, where pharmacies often remain among the most accessible points of care available to patients. Recent legislative and regulatory changes in Colorado have created important opportunities for pharmacists to play a greater role in addressing substance use disorders and improving access to evidence-based treatment.

The pharmacy-based MOUD component of DEEP ROOTS exemplifies the type of innovative, patient-centered approach needed to address the opioid crisis in rural communities. By utilizing collaborative practice agreements and protocols, and empowering pharmacists to participate in treatment initiation and coordination, the project creates a practical solution to one of the most significant challenges in addiction treatment: ensuring patients can access care at the moment they are ready to begin recovery.

We are particularly encouraged by the proposed direct-to-inject buprenorphine model. As fentanyl continues to dominate the illicit opioid supply, traditional treatment initiation approaches have become increasingly challenging for many patients. Developing rural pharmacy-based pathways that reduce barriers to treatment while maintaining strong clinical oversight has the potential to improve patient engagement and retention while expanding access to care in underserved areas.

The Colorado Pharmacists Society believes pharmacists have an important role to play in addressing the opioid epidemic and improving healthcare access. We commend Epifluence and Colorado ROOTS for advancing an innovative model that integrates pharmacies into a broader continuum of addiction care and strongly support this proposal.

Sincerely,

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