

MAT Act: Policy Timeline and Advocacy Leverage Points

Date	Milestone	Advocacy leverage point
2000	Data 2000 created waiver framework	Federal law created a special waiver requirement for office-based buprenorphine treatment for opioid use disorder Established and opt-in gate for a lifesaving medication
2018	Geographic gaps documented	Federal analysis reported 40 percent of U.S. counties had no waived buprenorphine provider Quantified access inequity and shortage conditions
May 2019	MAT Act introduced in the 116th Congress	H.R. 2482 introduced and later built a 117 cosponsor base Established baseline support level and showed early momentum without enactment
2020-2022	COVID-era strategy shift	Stay home orders forced a shift in advocacy efforts
Feb 2021	MAT Act introduced 117th Congress	H.R. 1384 introduced to expand access to buprenorphine, a lifesaving medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD)
April 2021	Training eased but waiver retained	HHS issued practice guidelines easing some training requirements but maintaining the waiver structure Demonstrated partial reforms did not remove the core barrier
Oct 2021	GHAI: Overdose Prevention Initiative Established	Initiative launched Mission focused to advocate for policies key to overcoming the overdose crisis in the United States focused on treatment and recovery access
Jan 2022	Coalition Expansion	GHAI began leading a national campaign advocating for passage of the MAT Act Convening over 400 partners, organizations and 250 co-sponsors to secure passage by EOY
June 2022	House vehicle advances	House passed H.R. 7666, a package that included MAT Act policy language Moved the policy into a viable legislative pathway
July-Dec 2022	Coalition and Congressional Engagement	GHAI performed strategic advocacy activities for a powerful policy progression Developed advocacy digital toolkits, convened with lawmakers and administration officials, and produced well-researched communications pieces, including published op-eds
Dec 2022	MAT Act enacted and signed	MAT Act enacted through Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Public Law 117 328 Eliminated the waiver barrier in statute
Jan 2023	Implementation clarified and rule alignment initiated	DEA and SAMHSA guidance clarified waiver elimination and operational implications, and a Federal Register notice aligned proposed rule changes with the statute Supported uptake and reduced confusion
Feb 2023	Presidential Validation	State of the Union included "We passed a law making it easier for doctors to prescribe effective treatments for opioid addiction" Reinforced bipartisan legitimacy and public narrative