



NJATOD

NJ Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence

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5/8/2026

Assemblywoman Andrea Katz, District 8

Assemblywoman Marisa Sweeney, District 25

Assemblyman Vincent M. “Vinnie” Kearney, District 21

Assemblywoman Carol Murphy, Chair, Assembly Health Committee

Assemblywoman Margie Donlon, Vice Chair, Assembly Health Committee

Members of the Assembly Health Committee

New Jersey General Assembly

Subject: Urgent Request for Committee Hearing on Assembly Bill
A4852 — MOUD Patient Access in Crisis

Dear Assemblywoman Katz, Assemblywoman Sweeney, Assemblyman Kearney, Chairwoman Murphy, and Members of the Assembly Health Committee:

On behalf of the New Jersey Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (NJATOD) and the thousands of patients we serve across this state, we write first to express our sincere gratitude to Assemblywoman Katz, Assemblywoman Sweeney, and Assemblyman Kearney for sponsoring Assembly Bill A4852. This legislation represents a vital and timely response to a patient care crisis that is unfolding right now, with a hard deadline of May 16, 2026.

NJATOD is an association that works tirelessly to support individuals both directly and indirectly impacted by the life-threatening disease of opioid addiction. Comprised of over 40 Opioid Treatment Programs from across the State of New Jersey, NJATOD is a solid coalition of providers working on issues that can and will affect Medication Assisted Treatment in the State. We understand that the work of NJATOD and its allies is focused on decreasing the impact of opioid addiction for our NJ residents and future generations and comes through creating awareness through education, treatment experiences, innovative approaches, and advocacy.

Background

On February 17, 2026, the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) confirmed that COVID-19 telemedicine waivers for Schedule II



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controlled dangerous substance (CDS) prescribing have expired following Governor Murphy's signing of Executive Order 415. As a result, all Schedule II prescribing, including medications used in opioid treatment programs (OTPs), is now subject to N.J.S.A. 45:1-62(e), which mandates an in-person visit every 90 days. This requirement takes effect May 16, 2026.

Why This Is a Crisis for OTP Patients

OTPs already operate under a strict federal framework (42 C.F.R. Part 8) that requires regular in-person visits. Applying a blanket 90-day prescriber visit rule to this population ignores how OTPs actually function and creates serious, unnecessary barriers to care. The consequences are severe:

- Providers would be required to schedule additional quarterly in-person prescriber visits for thousands of stable patients who are already seen in person at the clinic regularly.
- This affects patients in nursing homes, residential programs, mobile units, and correctional facilities — populations with severe barriers to accessing additional in-person visits.
- Disruptions to the prescribing cycle could force patients to miss doses of a life-sustaining medication, threatening their recovery and their lives.
- This is not a gap in oversight — it is an unintended conflict between state and federal regulatory frameworks that A4852 directly resolves.

Community Support

NJATOD has gathered 164 petition signatures from New Jersey residents, patients, providers, and advocates urging immediate action before the May 16 effective date. This number continues to grow daily as awareness of the looming deadline spreads throughout the treatment community. These signatures represent real people in real recovery whose care hangs in the balance. The petition is publicly available on Change.org at: <https://c.org/s2RH55Ndcq>

Our Request

A4852 eliminates the in-person examination or review requirement for Schedule II prescribing via telemedicine and telehealth, provided the provider is using interactive, real-time, two-way audio and video technology. This is a commonsense, patient-centered solution that aligns state law with the clinical realities of medication-assisted treatment.

We respectfully and urgently request that the Assembly Health Committee schedule A4852 for a hearing at the earliest possible opportunity. Every day of delay increases the risk of dosing interruptions that could cost lives.

NJATOD welcomes the opportunity to provide testimony, clinical expertise, and patient impact data in support of this bill. OTP patients have fought hard for their recovery. They should not have to fight bureaucratic barriers to keep it.



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Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to protecting New Jersey's most vulnerable patients. We stand ready to assist in any way that advances this critical legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Maiysha Ware, President

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CC: The Honorable Mikie Sherrill, Governor, State of New Jersey; Senator Joseph Vitale, Chair, Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee; Asm. Al Abdelaziz; Asm. John Azzariti; Asm. Erik Peterson; Asm. Gabriel Rodriguez; Asm. Brian Rumpf; Asm. Kenyatta Stewart; Asm. Chris Tully; Asm. Anthony Verrelli; Asm. Anthony Angelozzi; Jeremy E. Hollander, Acting Director, NJ Division of Consumer Affairs