

May 16, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman, and Ranking Member:

We the undersigned representing the major groups across all disciplines working on a comprehensive response to the drug crisis facing our nation write to express our support for the Substance Abuse Prevention Act of 2018 (S. 2789), which reauthorizes crucial substance use prevention programs and provides assistance to federal agencies to better address our nation's drug crisis.

As you know, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 63,600 Americans died of a drug overdose in 2016, a staggering 21 percent increase from 2015. With 174 Americans dying from drug overdose each day there is no doubt the drug epidemic is an urgent and serious problem requiring a comprehensive response that includes prevention, treatment, recovery supports, overdose reversal, law enforcement, and criminal justice reform.

Despite the magnitude of the crisis facing us, there is hope; research over the last two decades has shown that addiction is, in fact, both preventable and treatable. That is why strong prevention efforts, like those in the Substance Abuse Prevention Act of 2018, are a vital component of any federal response to the opioid crisis. We know that ninety-percent of individuals with a substance use disorder developed the disorder in adolescence – prevention efforts that delay the onset of use are key to ensuring fewer youth ever become addicted. We must continue to pursue a comprehensive, multi-sector prevention strategy to effectively reduce population levels of youth substance use, while also using smart law enforcement and interdiction efforts to reduce access to and availability of drugs.

The agency responsible for coordinating all of the nation's demand and supply reduction efforts is the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). ONDCP is responsible for overseeing federal efforts to combat every drug problem facing our nation and coordinating the work of all federal agencies to address substance use and misuse comprehensively and in accordance with the President's priorities. In addition, the agency has policy oversight for, and overall management of, the critical Drug Free Communities (DFC) and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) programs. No other agency has the unique responsibility to carry out this vital mission to execute one shared drug strategy, which is why it is so important that Congress acts swiftly to reauthorize ONDCP.

We are particularly pleased to see that the provisions in the Substance Abuse Prevention Act of 2018 address all areas of prevention. Specifically, the Substance Abuse Prevention Act of 2018 would:

- Reauthorize the ONDCP, to include DFC and HIDTA programs;
- Reauthorize the Department of Justice drug court funding program;
- Expand important awareness campaigns originally authorized by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA);
- Improve collaboration between the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and healthcare and community organizations working on the front lines of the drug crisis;
- Provide resources to protect families with SUD parents;
- Require certain hospitals to provide overdose patients with overdose reversal medication and treatment referral at discharge;
- Strengthen prescriber education; and
- Establish Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START) to pair social workers with families dealing with SUD.

We want to thank Senator Cornyn and Ranking Member Feinstein for their leadership on this vital piece of legislation, and we urge Congress to pass the Substance Abuse Prevention Act quickly in order to strengthen our efforts to prevent addiction and ultimately save lives.

Sincerely,

1. A New PATH
2. AATOD (American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence)
3. Addiction Policy Forum
4. American Psychological Association
5. Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
6. California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
7. Caron Treatment Centers
8. Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research at Boston Children's Hospital
9. CFC Loud N Clear Foundation
10. Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition (CRCC)
11. City of Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services
12. COASA/Robert F Kennedy Children's Action Corps
13. Community Anti- Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
14. Connecticut Certification Board
15. Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
16. Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA) of Northwest Louisiana
17. DarJune Recovery Support Services & Café
18. El Paso Alliance
19. Faces & Voices of Recovery
20. FAVOR Grand Strand
21. FAVOR Greenville

22. FAVOR Low Country
23. FAVOR Pee Dee
24. FAVOR Tri-County
25. Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
26. Floridians for Recovery
27. Foundation for Recovery, Inc.
28. George B. Crane Memorial Center
29. Illinois Association for Behavioral Health
30. International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)
31. Jackson Area Recovery Community
32. Lifehouse Recovery Connection
33. Live4lali Inc.
34. Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA)
35. Lost Dreams Awaken Center, Inc.
36. Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
37. Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
38. Message Carriers of Pennsylvania
39. Minnesota Recovery Connection
40. Missouri Recovery Network
41. National Association for Children of Addiction
42. National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
43. National Association of Social Workers
44. National Council for Behavioral Health
45. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
46. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Phoenix
47. National Crime Prevention Council
48. National Criminal Justice Association
49. National District Attorneys Association
50. National HIDTA Directors Association
51. National League of Cities
52. National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
53. Navigate Recovery Gwinnett
54. Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region
55. Nevada HIDTA
56. Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery
57. Peer Coach Academy Colorado
58. PEER360 Recovery Alliance
59. Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together - (PRO-ACT)
60. Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)
61. People Advocating Recovery - PAR
62. PLR Athens
63. Portland Recovery Community Center
64. Reality Check, Inc.
65. Recover Wyoming
66. Recovery Cafe
67. Recovery Communities of North Carolina

68. Recovery Community Connection
69. Recovery Community Of Durham
70. Recovery Epicenter Foundation, Inc.
71. Recovery Force of Atlantic County
72. Recovery Organization of Support Specialist
73. Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICAREs)
74. Rochester Recovery Community Center
75. ROCovery Fitness
76. San Diego-Imperial HIDTA
77. Shatterproof
78. SMART Recovery
79. Solutions Recovery, Inc.
80. SOS Recovery Community Organization
81. SpiritWorks Foundation
82. Springs Recovery Connection
83. Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow (SMART)
84. The Bridge Foundation
85. The Courage Center (TCC)
86. The DOOR - DeKalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
87. The McShin Foundation
88. The Moyer Foundation
89. The Phoenix
90. The RASE Project
91. The Serenity House of Flint
92. The Solano Project / Unity Hall
93. Tia Hart Community Recovery Program
94. Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) – Illinois
95. Treatment Communities of America
96. Trilogy Recovery Community
97. U MARC (United Mental Health and Addictions Recovery Coalition)
98. Voices of Hope Lexington
99. Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
100. WAI-IAM, Inc. and RISE Recovery Community
101. Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)
102. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery