

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice-Chairman
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman, and Ranking Member:

We write to convey our sincere gratitude for Congress' recent commitment to investing \$6 billion in Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019 to address our nation's drug crisis. As you know, the passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) in 2016 authorized annual appropriation of \$181 million over five years to fund all six pillars of a comprehensive response to addiction: prevention, treatment, recovery, overdose reversal, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system. In addition, the 21st Century Cures Act, which passed that same year, authorized \$1 billion over two years for the State Response to the Opioid Abuse Crisis.

While the passage of CARA and Cures were important steps toward building a comprehensive framework to help individuals with substance use disorders, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently found that 63,600 Americans died of drug overdose in 2016 with opioids accounting for more than sixty-five percent of the overall deaths. Further, the White House Council of Economic Advisers estimated last year the economic cost of the opioid crisis in 2015 was \$504 billion.

With 174 Americans dying each day to drug overdose, Congress must ensure the highest funding levels possible to support a comprehensive response to our nation's drug crisis. We strongly recommend investing additional Fiscal Year 2018 drug crisis funding in existing federal programs for prevention, treatment, recovery, overdose reversal, law enforcement and our criminal justice system, which provides the infrastructure to deal with the addiction crises facing our nation. With that in mind, we ask that you prioritize robust funding from the new monies to be made available in FY 2018 to address the substance use epidemic for the following effective programs.

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

- **First Responder Training-Overdose Reversal:** Helps states train and equip first responders in the use of overdose reversal medication.

- **Building Communities of Recovery (BCOR):** Provides grants within and outside of the recovery community to support the development, enhancement, expansion, and delivery of recovery support services.
- **Pregnant and Postpartum Women:** Supports certain state substance abuse agencies in addressing gaps in the continuum of care for pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorders.
- **Targeted Capacity Expansion Grants – MAT:** Expands access to MAT services for individuals with substance use disorders that prioritizes increases in the number of MAT admissions, and clients receiving integrated care; and decreases in illicit opioid and non-prescribed prescription opioids at six month follow up.
- **Access to Overdose Treatment:** Awards overdose treatment funds to a Federally Qualified Health Center, Opioid Treatment Program, or MAT prescriber to expand access to FDA-approved drugs/devices for emergency treatment of drug overdose.
- **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant:** Distributes funds by formula to all states, providing a flexible source of funding for states to plan, carry out, and evaluate substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery support services for individuals, families, and communities.
- **Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment:** Funds grants to states that target residents, physician assistants, social workers, nurses, dentists, psychologists, and pharmacists in primary care settings to identify individuals who misuse substances and help them intervene early with treatment or referral to treatment.
- **Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose Deaths:** Grants to states for education, training, and resources necessary to address overdose prevention, including the purchase of naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal drug.
- **Opioid Treatment Programs/Regulatory Activities:** Supports the regulation of opioid treatment programs and processing waivers for physicians who prescribe buprenorphine for opioid addiction treatment.
- **CDC Prescription Drug Overdose States Programs:** Strengthens national level data collection and analysis on drug overdose deaths, helps states implement prevention activities, and improves prescribing and dispensing practices, to include the use of PDMPs as a public health tool.
- **SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework:** Provides funding to states, tribes, and jurisdictions to implement the SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework which is designed to prevent the onset and reduce the progression of substance misuse, including childhood and underage drinking, reduce substance misuse-related problems in communities, build prevention capacity and infrastructure at state, tribe, jurisdiction, and community levels.
- **Strategic Prevention Framework Rx Program:** Provides grants to raise awareness about the dangers of sharing medication and to work with pharmaceutical and medical communities on the risks of overprescribing to young adults.
- **Recovery Community Services Program:** Expands the capacity of addiction recovery community organizations (RCOs) through the development of an organized statewide network.
- **National Institute on Drug Abuse:** Advances science on the causes and consequences of drug use and addiction and applies that knowledge to improve individual and public health.

- **SAMHSA Criminal Justice Activities:** Funds interventions, such as drug courts, which seek to divert adults with substance abuse disorders from the criminal justice system. Funds can support a variety of services, including treatment, case management, drug testing, and medication.
- **21st Century Cures:** Provided \$1 billion over two years to states to supplement state substance use disorder prevention and treatment activities.

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

- **CARA – DOJ Grants and Program COAP:** The Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) is a OJP grant program that delivers training and technical assistance (TTA) to state and local criminal justice and substance abuse treatment agencies.
- **Support state-run prescription drug monitoring programs.**
- **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT):** Assists states and local governments to develop and implement substance abuse treatment programs in state, local, and tribal correctional and detention facilities. Funds are also available to create and maintain community-based aftercare services for offenders.
- **Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants:** Funds state and local criminal justice activities, initiatives, and research related to law enforcement, courts, corrections, substance use disorder and mental health programs, and crime victim programs.
- **Drug Court Grant Program:** Assists communities in developing effective drug court strategies for nonviolent substance-abusing drug court participants.
- **Veterans Treatment Courts:** Supports hybrid drug and mental health courts that use the drug court model to serve veterans struggling with addiction, serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders, including serious, undertreated ailments, like PTSD and TBIs, both of which can produce higher rates of drug abuse, domestic violence and other criminality.
- **Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement:** Combines the resources and unique expertise of numerous federal, state and local agencies (e.g., US Attorneys, ATF, FBI, IRS, Coast Guard, ICE, US Marshals, Treasury) in a coordinated attack to reduce the availability of drugs by disrupting and dismantling major drug trafficking organizations and money laundering organizations and related criminal enterprises.
- **Methamphetamine Clean Up Grants:** Helps state and local law enforcement agencies reduce the production, distribution, and use of meth, and encourage grant recipients to develop partnerships with community leaders, fire departments, drug courts, prosecutors, child protective services, treatment providers, and other law enforcement agencies to coordinate meth response.
- **Methamphetamine Task Forces:** Competitive grants to state law enforcement agencies to be used to investigate illicit activities related to the manufacture and distribution of meth (including precursor diversion, laboratories, or methamphetamine traffickers).
- **Second Chance Act:** Funds to grantees to provide vital services to adults and juveniles—including employment training and assistance, substance use treatment, education, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims support, and other services—to make a person’s transition from prison or jail safer and more successful.

Financial Services and General Government

- **CARA Enhancement Grants:** Provides grants to current and former Drug Free Communities Coalitions to do more with more intensity to stop opioid misuse before it ever starts.
- **Drug Free Communities Programs:** ONDCP's Drug Free Communities program supports community-based, multi-sector, data-driven coalitions that organize to prevent and reduce youth substance use.
- **Office of National Drug Control Policy:** The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) is responsible for developing the administration's national drug control strategy and coordinating the drug control efforts of all executive branch agencies. The ONDCP Director serves as the President's principal advisor on all drug control matters. ONDCP administers the HIDTA and DFC programs.
- **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area:** Provides assistance to Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug trafficking regions of the United States.

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies

- **CARA – Veterans Administration Initiatives and Programs**

We ask that Congress prioritize these programs as you explore how best to invest federal resources. We look forward to working with you to ensure federal resources are targeted at these and other evidence-based solutions to our nation's drug crisis that includes prevention, treatment, recovery, overdose reversal, law enforcement, and criminal justice reform.

Sincerely,

1. A New PATH
2. Addiction Policy Forum
3. Advocates for Recovery Colorado
4. Alano Club of Portland
5. American Psychological Association
6. Apricity
7. Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA)
8. Bangor Area Recovery Network, Inc.
9. CADA of Northwest Louisiana
10. California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals (CCAPP)
11. Capital Area Project Vox
12. Caron Treatment Centers
13. Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
14. CFC Loud N Clear Foundation
15. Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition (CRCC)
16. Communities for Recovery
17. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of American (CADCA)
18. Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
19. Council of State Governments Justice Center

20. DarJune Recovery Support Services & Café
21. Davis Direction Foundation - The Zone
22. DC Recovery Community Alliance
23. Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.
24. El Paso Alliance
25. Faces and Voices of Recovery
26. FAVOR Grand Strand
27. FAVOR Greenville
28. FAVOR Low Country
29. FAVOR Mississippi Recovery Advocacy Project
30. FAVOR Pee Dee
31. FAVOR Tri-County
32. Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
33. Floridians for Recovery
34. Foundation for Recovery
35. Friends of Recovery - New York
36. Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
37. Greater Macomb Project Vox
38. HOPE for New Hampshire Recovery
39. IC&RC
40. Illinois Association of Behavioral Health
41. Jackson Area Recovery Community
42. Juneau Recovery Community
43. Latah Recovery Center
44. Lifehouse Recovery Connection
45. Live4Lali, Inc.
46. Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA)
47. Lost Dreams Awaken Center, Inc.
48. Lotus Peer Recovery/SoberKerrville
49. Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
50. Major Cities Chiefs Association
51. Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
52. Message Carriers of Pennsylvania, Inc.
53. Minnesota Recovery Connection
54. Missouri Recovery Network
55. National Association For Children of Addiction
56. National Association of Drug Court Professionals
57. National Association of Social Workers
58. National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
59. National Criminal Justice Association
60. National District Attorneys Association
61. National Independent Laboratory Association
62. National Safety Council
63. Navigate Recovery Gwinnett
64. Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region
65. Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA)

66. Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery & Treatment Association (OCARTA)
67. Partnership for Drug-Free Kids
68. Peer Coach Academy Colorado
69. PEER360 Recovery Alliance
70. Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together - (PRO-ACT)
71. Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)
72. People Advocating Recovery – PAR
73. Phoenix Multisport Boston
74. PLR Athens
75. Portland Recovery Community Center
76. Pretrial Justice Institute
77. RASE Project
78. REAL- Michigan (Recovery, Education, Advocacy & Leadership)
79. Recover Project/Western MA Training
80. Recover Wyoming
81. Recovery Allies Of West Michigan
82. Recovery Café
83. Recovery Communities of North Carolina
84. Recovery Community Of Durham
85. Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
86. Recovery Epicenter Foundation, Inc.
87. Recovery Force of Atlantic County
88. Recovery is Happening
89. Recovery Organization of Support Specialist
90. RecoveryATX
91. Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICAREs)
92. Rochester Recovery Community Center
93. ROCovery Fitness
94. Safe Harbor Recovery Center - Granite Pathways
95. Safer Foundation
96. School-Based Health Alliance
97. Shatterproof
98. SMART Recovery
99. Solano Recovery Project
100. Solutions Recovery, Inc.
101. SOS Recovery Community Organization
102. SpiritWorks Foundation
103. Springs Recovery Connection
104. Strengthening the Mid-atlantic Region for Tomorrow (SMART)
105. Students for Sensible Drug Policy
106. T.O.R.C.H Inc.
107. The Bridge Foundation
108. The DOOR - DeKalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
109. The McShin Foundation
110. The Moyer Foundation
111. The Serenity House of Flint

112. Tia Hart Recovery Community Program
113. Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) – Illinois
114. Treatment Communities of America
115. Trilogy Recovery Community
116. U MARC (United Mental Health and Addictions Recovery Coalition)
117. Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA)
118. Vermont Recovery Network
119. Virginia Association of Recovery Residences
120. Voices of Hope for Cecil County
121. Voices of Hope Lexington
122. Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
123. WAI-IAM, Inc. and RISE Recovery Community
124. Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)
125. WestCare Foundation, Inc.
126. Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization (WIRCO)
127. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery