

September 11, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

We the undersigned, representing the major groups across all disciplines working on a comprehensive response to address the drug crisis facing our country, write to urge the Senate to act quickly, and without delay, on the passage of meaningful, bipartisan legislation that would help curb the ever worsening opioid crisis and ultimately save lives.

As you know, the opioid crisis is an urgent matter. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 63,600 Americans died of a drug overdose in 2016, representing a staggering 21 percent increase over 2015. Each day we lose 174 people to drug overdoses - which is equivalent to a plane crash each day in our country.

We applaud the House for their leadership in passing the historic Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act (H.R. 6). This legislation includes more than fifty different proposals that will help save lives by strengthening areas of prevention, treatment, recovery, overdose reversal, research, law enforcement, veterans, and child welfare, and other key aspects of a comprehensive response needed to address the drug crisis.

As attention turns to the Senate, we ask for the quick passage of complementary legislation to be made a priority in order to improve our country's ability to implement a comprehensive response and to help communities nationwide better treat and prevent addiction and save lives. It is meaningful, bipartisan legislation that follows the science, and is supported by patients, families and key stakeholders that will make a difference.

We strongly support for the following legislation to be included in the Senate's opioid package:

- **Opioid Crisis Response Act (OCRA) of 2018 (S. 2680):** Authored by Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA), this legislation would, among other issues, improve first responders ability to assist individuals who have overdosed; expand support services to help patients achieve long-term recovery; provide resources to operate substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery centers; educate doctors on how to prevent, detect, and treat SUD; and expand the use of technology services for the treatment of additional SUD patients.

- **Substance Abuse Prevention Act of 2018 (S. 2789):** Authored by Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), this legislation would reauthorize crucial substance use prevention programs and provides assistance to federal agencies to better address our nation's drug crisis. Specifically, this legislation would, among other issues, reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy at the White House, which includes the Drug Free Communities and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area programs; reauthorizes the Department of Justice funding for drug courts; improves collaboration between Drug Enforcement Administration and healthcare and community organizations working on the front lines of the drug crisis; and provides resources to protect families with SUD parents.
- **SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (H.R. 6):** Introduced by Representatives Greg Walden (R-OR), Kevin Brady (R-TX), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and Richard Neal (D-MA), this legislation includes more than fifty different proposals that address and improves resources in areas of prevention, treatment, recovery, overdose reversal, research, law enforcement, veterans, and child welfare, and other key aspects of a comprehensive response needed to address the drug crisis.

We understand the Senate has a tight legislative schedule this summer and fall and are working hard to bring about many important reforms, but we ask the Senate to make the passage of this legislation a top priority so we can quickly move to conference with the House of Representatives and ultimately send a package to the President's desk to signed into law.

The undersigned signatories believe that these bipartisan proposals contain many critical components that will have an immediate and positive impact in states and communities nationwide to better address the opioid crisis in a meaningful way. We respectfully request the swift passage of this legislation, and are available to assist you in your efforts.

Sincerely,

1. A New PATH
2. Addiction Haven
3. Addiction Policy Forum
4. Addiction Recovery Communities of California
5. Advocates for Recovery Colorado
6. Alabama Addiction Policy Forum
7. Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services
8. American Psychiatric Association
9. American Psychological Association
10. Apricity
11. Arizona Addiction Policy Forum
12. Aspen Counseling and Consulting
13. Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA)
14. Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
15. Association of Recovery Community Organizations

16. Bangor Area Recovery Network, Inc.
17. Berger Health Foundation
18. Beyond Addiction Recovery & Family Support Group
19. California Addiction Policy Forum
20. California Narcotic Officers Organization
21. Capital Area Project VOX
22. Capstone Rural Health Clinic
23. Caron Treatment Centers
24. Center for Adolescent Substance Use Research at Boston Children's Hospital
25. Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
26. CFC Loud n Clear Foundation
27. Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition (CRCC)
28. Colorado Addiction Policy Forum
29. Committee for Children
30. Communities for Recovery
31. Community Anti- Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
32. Connecticut Addiction Policy Forum
33. Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
34. COPES
35. Darjune Recovery Support Center & Services
36. DC Recovery Community Alliance
37. Delphi Behavioral Health Group
38. Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.
39. DisposeRx
40. East End Community Services
41. El Paso Alliance
42. Faces & Voices of Recovery
43. FAVOR Grand Strand
44. FAVOR Greenville
45. FAVOR Low Country
46. FAVOR Midlands
47. FAVOR Mississippi Recovery Advocacy Project
48. FAVOR Pee Dee
49. FAVOR Tri-County
50. Fellowship Foundation RCO
51. Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
52. Floridians for Recovery
53. Foundation for Recovery
54. Friends of Emmett
55. Friends of Recovery - New York
56. George B. Crane Memorial Center
57. Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
58. Great Bear Recovery Collective
59. Greater Macomb Project VOX
60. Hansen Recovery Resource Center
61. Healing Springs Recovery Community & Outreach Center

62. HOPE for New Hampshire Recovery
63. Hope Harbor
64. Hope Soldiers
65. HTLV/XMRV National Registry
66. Illinois Addiction Policy Forum
67. Indiana Addiction Issues Coalition
68. Indiana Addiction Policy Forum
69. Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc.
70. Invitation to Recovery
71. Jackson Area Recovery Community
72. Kenai Peninsula Reentry Coalition
73. Kentucky Addiction Policy Forum
74. LifeHouse Recovery Connection
75. Live4Lali
76. LivingProof Recovery
77. Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA)
78. Lost Dreams Awaken Center, Inc.
79. Lotus Peer Recovery/SoberKerrville
80. Maine Addiction Policy Forum
81. Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
82. Major Cities Chiefs
83. Maryland Addiction Policy Forum
84. Maryland House Detox
85. Massachusetts Addiction Policy Forum
86. Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
87. Message Carriers of Pennsylvania, Inc.
88. Michigan Addiction Policy Forum
89. Minnesota Addiction Policy Forum
90. Minnesota Alternatives
91. Minnesota Recovery Connection
92. Missouri Addiction Policy Forum
93. Missouri Recovery Network
94. Montana Addiction Policy Forum
95. NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
96. NACoA - National Association for Children of Addiction
97. National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
98. National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
99. National Association of Counties (NACo)
100. National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
101. National Families in Action
102. National HIDTA Directors Association
103. National Police Foundation
104. National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
105. National Rural Health Association
106. National Safety Council
107. Navigate Recovery Gwinnett

108. Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region
109. Nevada Addiction Policy Forum
110. New Hampshire Addiction Policy Forum
111. New Hope Family Addiction Support
112. New Jersey Addiction Policy Forum
113. New Jersey Chapter of Addiction Policy Forum
114. New York Addiction Policy Forum
115. North Carolina Addiction Policy Forum
116. North Dakota Addiction Policy Forum
117. Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA)
118. Ohio Addiction Policy Forum
119. Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery
120. Oklahoma Addiction Policy Forum
121. Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery & Treatment Association (OCARTA)
122. Oregon Addiction Policy Forum
123. PALS
124. Peer Coach Academy Colorado
125. PEER360 Recovery Alliance
126. Pennsylvania Addiction Policy Forum
127. Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together - (PRO-ACT)
128. Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)
129. People Advocating Recovery - PAR
130. People Living In Recovery (PLR)
131. Pickaway Addiction Action Coalition
132. Portland Recovery Community Center
133. RAIS (Recovery Advocacy In Saratoga)
134. REAL - Michigan (Recovery, Education, Advocacy & Leadership)
135. Reality Check, Inc.
136. Recover Project
137. Recover Wyoming
138. Recovery Allies of West Michigan
139. Recovery Café
140. Recovery Communities of North Carolina
141. Recovery Community Connection
142. Recovery Community of Durham
143. Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
144. Recovery Data Solutions
145. Recovery Epicenter Foundation, Inc.
146. Recovery Force of Atlantic County, Inc.
147. Recovery is Happening
148. Recovery Organization of Support Specialist
149. Recovery-Friendly Taos County
150. RecoveryATX
151. Rhode Island Addiction Policy Forum
152. Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICAREs)
153. ROCoverly Fitness

154. Rosecrance
155. Shatterproof
156. Smart Approaches to Marijuana Action (SAM Action)
157. SMART Recovery
158. Sobriety Matters
159. Solano Recovery Project
160. Solutions Recovery, Inc.
161. SOS Recovery Community Organization
162. South Peninsula Opioid Task Force
163. SpiritWorks Foundation
164. Springs Recovery Connection
165. ST. Luke's Recovery Resource Center
166. Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow (SMART)
167. T.O.R.C.H Inc.
168. Tennessee Addiction Policy Forum
169. Texas Addiction Policy Forum
170. The Addicts Family
171. The Bridge Foundation
172. The Courage Center
173. The DOOR - Dekalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
174. The McShin Foundation
175. The Moyer Foundation
176. The PHOENIX
177. The RASE Project
178. The Serenity House of Flint
179. There is No Hero in Heroin
180. Tia Hart Recovery Community Program
181. Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC, Inc.) - Illinois
182. Treatment Communities of America
183. Tribe Integrative Recovery
184. Trilogy Recovery Community
185. U MARC (United Mental Health And Addictions Recovery Coalition)
186. United Methodist Church
187. University of Illinois College of Medicine
188. University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
189. Utah Addiction Policy Forum
190. Utah Support Advocates For Recovery Awareness (USARA)
191. Vermont Recovery Network
192. Virginia Addiction Policy Forum
193. Voices of Hope for Cecil County
194. Voices of Hope Lexington
195. Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
196. WAI-IAM, Inc. and RISE Recovery Community
197. Walker County Health Action Partnership
198. Washington Addiction Policy Forum
199. Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)

200. West Virginia Addiction Policy Forum
201. WestCare Kentucky
202. WestCare Tennessee
203. Wisconsin Addiction Policy Forum
204. Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization (WIRCO)
205. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery
206. Young People in Recovery