

June 12, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Minority Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

We the undersigned, representing the major groups across all disciplines working on a comprehensive response to addiction, write to express our support for the House's efforts to address our nation's response to substance use disorders.

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.

As you know, passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) in 2016 represented a historic step toward building the comprehensive approach needed in our nation. However, it is clear that more must be done, with a particular focus on access to treatment and recovery services, healthcare solutions, and new innovations.

We are pleased to see the House understands this urgency as evidenced by the creative, bipartisan proposals currently under consideration, and we thank members in both parties for treating addiction like the disease that it is as you work so that fewer lives are lost to substance use disorder. Among the numerous, serious proposals being considered we would like to particularly express our support for the following:

- **H.R. 5176, Preventing Overdoses While in Emergency Rooms (POWER) Act of 2018:** Authored by Rep. David McKinley (R-WV) and Rep. Michael Doyle (D-PA), this legislation would provide emergency departments with the resources and tools needed to develop evidence-based protocols for screening overdose patients for substance use disorders, initiating treatment with FDA-approved medications in the hospital, and providing rapid referrals to evidence-based treatment before a patient is discharged. In

addition, this legislation would help hospitals develop and implement best practices for care coordination and integrated care models for long-term treatment and recovery services.

- **H.R. 5327, Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers (CORC) Act of 2018:** Authored by Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) and Rep. Gene Green (D-TX), this legislation would establish Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers (CORCs) to serve as models for comprehensive treatment and recovery to ensure individuals suffering with substance use disorder (SUD) have access to quality treatment and recovery services. These Centers would provide the full spectrum of evidence-based treatment services, including intake evaluations and regular assessments, all Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved treatments for substance use disorders, detoxification, counseling, residential rehabilitation, recovery support services, pharmacy and toxicology services, and interoperable electronic health information systems.
- **H.R. 5261, Training, Education, and Community Help (TEACH) to Combat Addiction Act of 2018:** Authored by Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH) and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY), this legislation would expand curricula and training resources for physicians and other key healthcare providers to better address addiction, pain, and the opioid crisis. In addition, this legislation would codify the National Institute of Health (NIH) Centers of Excellence in Pain Education (CoEPEs) program, which serves as a hub for the development, evaluation, and distribution of pain management curriculum resources for medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy, and other schools to improve how health care professionals are taught about pain and its treatment.
- **H.R. 5695, Emmett’s Law** (Added as amendment to H.R. 5009, Jessie’s Law): Authored by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI), and Rep. David McKinley (R-WV), this legislation would require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop and disseminate best practices on including substance use disorder patient information in medical records, as well as, annually notifying health care providers on permitted disclosures, under Federal privacy laws, of the sharing of medical records during emergencies with families, caregivers, and other healthcare providers.
- **H.R. 5735, Transitional Housing for Recovery in Viable Environments (THRIVE) Act:** Authored by Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY), this legislation would create a demonstration program that supports transitional housing for individuals in recovery from substance use disorder. The program would set-aside up to 10,000 vouchers for eligible individuals and would only be available for individuals in programs that provide evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders and job skills training.

- **H.R. 5102, Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act of 2018:** Authored by Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA) and Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY), this legislation would bolster the substance use disorder (SUD) treatment workforce by creating a student loan repayment program for healthcare professionals who enter and work in the substance use disorder treatment field. In an effort to attract the full range of experts needed for comprehensive SUD treatment, the program would be available to a broad range of healthcare professionals including doctors, nurses, social workers, and mental health professionals. To qualify for the program, applicants must agree to be employed in a full-time SUD treatment job in a direct patient care role located in either a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area or in areas experiencing a higher than average overdose death rate.
- **H.R. 5041, Safe Disposal of Unused Medication Act:** Authored by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) and Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI), this legislation would allow hospice workers to dispose of unused medications in patients homes. Many first-time encounters with opioids happen in homes with leftover medications that were initially prescribed by a physician. Reducing or preventing drug diversion by implementing improved disposal procedures is as crucial as it is easy, and this legislation would do just that by giving hospice care providers greater ability to dispose of unused controlled substances for the deceased.
- **H.R. 4684, Ensuring Access to Quality Sober Living Act of 2018:** Authored by Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), Rep. Mimi Walters (R-CA), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), and Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA), this legislation would require the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to develop and disseminate best practices for operating recovery housing to ensure individuals are living in a safe and supportive environment.
- **H.R. 5587, Peer Support Communities of Recovery Act:** Authored by Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) and Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH), this legislation would enhance the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016's Building Communities of Recovery (BCOR) Program and authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to award grants to recovery community organizations to serve as regional training and technical assistance centers to help expand peer recovery support services nationwide.
- **H.R. 449, Synthetic Drug Awareness Act:** Authored by Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), this legislation would require the Surgeon General to submit a report to Congress on the public health effects caused by the increased use of synthetic drugs among our nation's youth.

- **H.R. 4275, Empowering Pharmacists in the Fight Against Opioid Abuse Act:** Authored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) and Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA), this legislation would require the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to develop and disseminate training resources to help pharmacists' ability to better detect fraudulent prescription medications.
- **H.R. 5197, Alternatives to Opioids (ALTO) in the Emergency Department Act:** Authored by Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Rep. David McKinley (R-WV), this legislation would require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a demonstration program to test alternative pain management protocols in order to limit the use of opioid medications in emergency departments.
- **H.R. 5483, Special Registration for Telemedicine Clarification Act of 2018:** Authored by Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA) and Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL), this legislation would increase access of substance use disorder treatment through the use of telemedicine and provide clarification on federal regulations for telemedicine waivers.

Again, we are grateful for the serious, bipartisan approach taken by the House of Representatives to address our nation's drug crisis, and we urge the House to pass legislation like the aforementioned proposals immediately.

Sincerely,

1. 1 Voice Inc.
2. A New PATH
3. Addiction Policy Forum
4. Addiction Professionals of North Carolina
5. Advocates for Recovery Colorado
6. Alano Club of Portland
7. American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
8. Apricity (STEP Industries)
9. Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA)
10. Association of Recovery Community Organizations
11. Bangor Area Recovery Network, Inc.
12. California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
13. Capital Area Project Vox - Lansings Voice of Recovery
14. Caron Treatment Centers
15. Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research at Boston Children's Hospital

16. Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
17. CFC Loud N Clear Foundation
18. Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition (CRCC)
19. Communities for Recovery
20. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America ( CADCA)
21. Connecticut Certification Board
22. Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
23. DarJune Recovery Support Services & Café
24. Davis Direction Foundation - The Zone
25. DC Recovery Community Alliance
26. Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.
27. DisposeRX
28. Easy Does It, Inc.
29. El Paso Alliance
30. Engaged Recovery Community Services
31. Faces & Voices of Recovery
32. Faces and Voices of Recovery Canada
33. FAVOR Grand Strand
34. FAVOR Greenville
35. FAVOR Low Country
36. FAVOR Midlands
37. FAVOR Mississippi Recovery Advocacy Project
38. FAVOR Pee Dee
39. FAVOR SC
40. FAVOR Tri-County
41. Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
42. Floridians for Recovery
43. Foundation for Recovery, Inc.
44. Friends of Recovery - New York
45. G.A.P. House Ministries, Inc.
46. George B. Crane Memorial Center
47. Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
48. Great Bear Recovery Collaborative
49. Greater Macomb Project Vox
50. Guidance / Care Center
51. Healthcare Leadership Council
52. HOPE for NH Recovery
53. IC & RC
54. Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc.
55. Jackson Area Recovery Community

56. Latah Recovery Center
57. Lifehouse Recovery Connection
58. Live4Lali
59. Living Proof Recovery
60. Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA)
61. Lost Dreams Awaken Center, Inc.
62. Lotus Peer Recovery/SoberKerrville
63. Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
64. Maryland Recovery Organization Connecting Communities (M-ROCC)
65. Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
66. Message Carriers of Pennsylvania
67. Mi-HOPE - Michigan Heroin & Opiate Prevention and Education
68. Michigan Recovery Voices
69. Minnesota Recovery Connection
70. Missouri Recovery Network
71. NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
72. National Association for Children of Addiction
73. National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
74. National Association of Social Workers
75. National Families in Action
76. National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
77. Navigate Recovery Gwinnett
78. Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region
79. Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA)
80. Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery
81. Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery & Treatment Association (OCARTA)
82. Peer Coach Academy Colorado
83. Peer Wellness & Recovery Services
84. PEER360 Recovery Alliance
85. Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together - (PRO-ACT)
86. Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)
87. People Advocating Recovery - PAR
88. PLR Athens
89. Portland Recovery Community Center
90. REAL- Michigan (Recovery, Education, Advocacy & Leadership)
91. Reality Check, Inc.
92. Recover Project/Western MA Training
93. Recover Wyoming
94. Recovery - Friendly Taos County
95. Recovery Alliance of Austin/ Recovery ATX

96. Recovery Allies Of West Michigan
97. Recovery Cafe
98. Recovery Communities of North Carolina
99. Recovery Community Connection
100. Recovery Community Of Durham
101. Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
102. Recovery Epicenter Foundation, Inc.
103. Recovery Force of Atlantic County
104. Recovery Idaho, Inc.
105. Recovery is Happening
106. Recovery Organization of Support Specialist
107. reGROUP / Lost and Found RecoveryCenter
108. Revive Recovery, Inc.
109. Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICAREs)
110. Rochester Recovery Community Center
111. ROCovery Fitness
112. Safe Harbor Recovery Center Granite Pathways
113. Shatterproof
114. Smart Approaches to Marijuana Action (SAM Action)
115. SMART Recovery
116. Solutions Recovery, Inc.
117. SOS Recovery Community Organization
118. SpiritWorks Foundation
119. Springs Recovery Connection
120. Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow (SMART)
121. T.O.R.C.H Inc.
122. Texas Recovers!
123. The Bridge Foundation
124. The Courage Center (TCC)
125. The DOOR - DeKalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
126. The McShin Foundation
127. The Moyer Foundation
128. The Ohana Center for Recovery
129. The Phoenix
130. The RASE Project
131. The Serenity House of Flint
132. The Solano Project / Unity Hall
133. The Village South
134. Tia Hart Community Recovery Program
135. Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) Illinois

136. Trilogy Recovery Community
137. U MARC (United Mental Health and Addictions Recovery Coalition)
138. Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA)
139. Vermont Recovery Network
140. Voices of Hope for Cecil County
141. Voices of Hope Lexington
142. Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
143. WAI-IAM, Inc. and RISE Recovery Community
144. Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)
145. WestCare
146. Westcare Foundation
147. WestCare Georgia
148. WestCare GulfCoast
149. Westcare Illinois
150. WestCare Kentucky
151. WestCare Ohio dba East End Community Services
152. WestCare TN
153. WestCare Wisconsin
154. WestCare Wisconsin Youth Action Council
155. Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization (WIRCO)
156. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery
157. Young People In Recovery