

COALITION TO
STOP OPIOID
OVERDOSE

November 6, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden,

The undersigned organizations in the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose (CSOO) and other undersigned organizations are writing today to voice our support for the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act of 2019. With the recent and tragic passing of its lead House sponsor, Representative Elijah Cummings, only with your leadership, can we keep the ideas in this legislation alive.

CSOO is a coalition of diverse organizations united around common policy goals to reduce opioid overdose deaths. CSOO members aim to elevate the national conversation around opioid overdose and work to enact meaningful and comprehensive policy changes that support evidence-based prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery support services.

As we know too well, the morbidity and mortality statistics related to addiction, and in particular addiction involving opioid use, are astounding. In 2017, there were a record 70,237 drug overdose deaths in the United States, two-thirds of which have been linked to opioids.ⁱ Moreover, for three years in a row, life expectancy in the United States declined largely because of rising drug overdose deaths.ⁱⁱ While preliminary data indicates that drug overdose deaths may have slightly declined last year,ⁱⁱⁱ drug overdose deaths remain at historic highs, and synthetic opioids continue to pose a significant threat to life.^{iv} Given these alarming statistics, we need your leadership to pass legislation like the CARE Act of 2019, which provides bold actions that would help to turn the tide of our country's addiction and overdose epidemic and save lives.

Modeled directly on the Ryan White Act, the CARE Act of 2019 would provide \$100 billion in federal funding over the next ten years to states, local governments, and other organizations and institutions to support federal research and programs to prevent drug use while expanding access to prevention, harm reduction, addiction treatment, mental health services, and recovery support services. This level of authorized funding is critical in order to build comprehensive systems that are both effective and sustainable. The CARE Act would also incent systemic changes to facilitate adoption of evidence-based



practices and grow our mental health and addiction services workforce. For example, the bill would facilitate the implementation of nationally recognized level of care standards for addiction treatment programs and new standards for recovery residences and improve training for healthcare professionals who care for patients with mental health and substance use disorders in communities across the US. These provisions, among the others in the bill, are urgently needed and will move us closer to a future where all Americans living with mental health and/or substance use disorders are able to receive the high-quality care they need and deserve.

We would like to thank you for considering the CARE Act of 2019, and we look forward to working with you to secure its passage or the passage of substantially similar legislation.

Sincerely,

1. A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)
2. Achieving Recovery Together, Inc.
3. Addiction Haven
4. Addiction Recovery Communities of California
5. Advocates for Recovery Colorado
6. AIDS United
7. Amare
8. American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work*
9. American College of Medical Toxicology
10. American Dance Therapy Association*
11. American Psychological Association
12. American Society of Addiction Medicine
13. Apricity
14. Association of Alternative Peer Groups (AAPG)*
15. Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA)
16. Association of Recovery Community Organizations (ARCO)
17. Association of Recovery Schools (ARS)*
18. Bayou Action Street Health*
19. Behavioral Health Association of Providers*
20. CADA of Northwest Louisiana*
21. California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
22. Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
23. Center on Addiction
24. CFC Loud N Clear Foundation
25. Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition (CRCC)
26. Communities for Recovery

27. Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
28. Connecting Creative Communities
29. Coweta F.O.R.C.E.
30. Darjune Recovery Support Services & Café
31. Detroit Recovery Project
32. Drug Policy Alliance*
33. Faces & Voices of Recovery
34. FAVOR Grand Strand
35. FAVOR Greenville
36. FAVOR Low Country
37. FAVOR Pee Dee
38. FAVOR Tri-County
39. Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
40. Floridians for Recovery
41. Freedom Through Recover Susan Ford Recovery Community Organization
42. Friends of Recovery New York
43. Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
44. Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice*
45. Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Incorporated*
46. Harm Reduction Coalition
47. HIV Alliance (Oregon)
48. HIV Medicine Association
49. Hope for New Hampshire Recovery
50. iHOPE Inc.
51. Illinois Association of Behavioral Health
52. In Another Vein, Harm Reduction Collective*
53. Indiana Addiction Issues Coalition
54. Institutes for Behavior Resources/REACH Health Services*
55. International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC & RC)
56. Law Enforcement Action Partnership*
57. Living Proof Recovery
58. Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA)
59. Lost Dreams Awaken Center
60. Love, Cassidy*
61. Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
62. Many Paths One Destination
63. Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence*
64. Maryland Heroin Awareness Advocates*
65. Mariposa Heritage House
66. Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
67. Message Carriers of Pennsylvania, Inc.
68. Middlesex County Recovery Community Center
69. Midlands Recovery Center
70. Minnesota Alternatives

71. Minnesota Recovery Connection
72. Missouri Network for Opiate Reform & Recovery
73. Missouri Recovery Network
74. National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
75. National Association for Children's Behavioral Health*
76. National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
77. National Association of Social Workers*
78. National Council for Behavioral Health
79. National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health*
80. National Health Care for the Homeless Council
81. National Safety Council
82. Navigate Recovery Gwinnett
83. Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region
84. New Jersey Coalition for Addiction Recovery Support
85. Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery & Treatment Association (OCARTA)
86. Peer Coach Academy Colorado
87. Peers Empowering Peers
88. Pennsylvania Recovery Organization – Achieving Community Together – (PRO-ACT)
89. Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)
90. People Advocating Recovery – PAR
91. People Living in Recovery (PLR)
92. Portland Recovery Community Center
93. Reality Check, Inc.
94. REAL Michigan
95. Rebel Recovery FL
96. Reboot Jackson
97. Recover Wyoming
98. Recovery – Friendly Taos County
99. Recovery Café
100. Recovery Communities of North Carolina
101. Recovery Community Connection
102. Recovery Community of Durham
103. Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
104. Recovery Epicenter Foundation, Inc.
105. Recovery Force of Atlantic County
106. Recovery is Happening
107. Recovery Alliance of Austin - RecoveryATX
108. Recovery United
109. ROcovery Fitness
110. Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center
111. San Francisco AIDS Foundation*
112. School Social Work Association of America*
113. SMART Recovery
114. SOS Recovery Community Organization

115. SpiritLife Recovery Community Center
116. SpiritWorks Foundation
117. Springs Recovery Connection
118. Student Coalition on Addiction
119. Suncoast Harm Reduction Project*
120. The American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine
121. The Bridge Foundation
122. The Courage Center
123. The DOOR – Dekalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
124. The Kennedy Forum
125. The McShin Foundation
126. The Phoenix
127. The RASE Project, Harrisburg, PA
128. The Serenity House of Flint
129. There is No Hero in Heroin
130. The Voices Project*
131. Tia Hart Recovery Community Program
132. Treatment Communities of America
133. Trystereo/ New Orleans Harm Reduction Network*
134. Twin Cities Recovery Project
135. U MARC (United Mental Health and Addictions Recovery Coalition)
136. Unity Recovery*
137. Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA)
138. Vermont Recovery Network
139. Voices of Hope Lexington
140. Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
141. WAI-IAM, Inc. and Rise Recovery Community
142. Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)
143. WEcovery operated by Beyond Brink
144. Will's Place
145. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery
146. Young People in Recovery

*Not a CSOO member or ARCO member

ⁱ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. “Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health”. September 2018.

ⁱⁱ Dyer Owen. US life expectancy falls for third year in a row BMJ 2018; 363 :k5118

ⁱⁱⁱ Ahmad FB, Escobedo LA, Rossen LM, Spencer MR, Warner M, Sutton P. Provisional drug overdose death counts. National Center for Health Statistics. 2019.

^{iv} Pardo, Bryce, Jirka Taylor, Jonathan P. Caulkins, Beau Kilmer, Peter Reuter, and Bradley D. Stein, The Future of Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Opioids. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2019.

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR3117.html. Also available in print form.