



VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

September 8, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Funding the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016

Dear Chairman Cochran and Ranking Member Mikulski:

As you know, the overuse and misuse of opioids, both prescribed and illicit, has become a public health epidemic that is impacting every state and community in the nation. Deaths from prescription painkillers have quadrupled since 1999, killing more than 28,000 people in the U.S. in 2014. Nearly two million Americans, aged 12 or older, either misused or were dependent on opioids in 2013.

As a diverse group of stakeholders interested in the manufacture, distribution and appropriate use of opioid medications, the Collaborative for Effective Prescription Opioid Policies (CEPOP) is working toward a comprehensive and balanced policy strategy to reduce abuse and promote treatment options. We support effective programs and policies to help prevent prescription painkiller overdose, while ensuring patients' access to safe, effective pain treatment.

We commend Members of Congress for coming together to enact the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA). Passage of CARA was a major step forward in the fight against opioid abuse. CARA establishes a comprehensive, balanced strategy to address opioid use disorders through enhanced programs for prevention, treatment (including expanded access to medication-assisted treatment), recovery, overdose reversal, as well as criminal justice reform and services for women, families, and veterans.

Now, we urge you to take the next step in this effort and provide much needed funding to help states and communities address this epidemic and save lives. We urge Congress to act before the end of the year to provide funding for the \$181 million in new authorizations passed as part of CARA. At the same time, core programs to treat and prevent substance misuse disorders have been underfunded for years and have not kept up with inflation, let alone the growing need for services. In 2014, an estimated 17.5 million Americans needed but did not receive services for a substance use problem.

Therefore we ask you to provide increased funding for programs that will help expand access to treatment, recovery and prevention programs including, but not limited to, the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (\$1.85 billion, a \$50 million increase), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (\$364 million, a \$30 million increase), and SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (\$231 million, a \$20 million increase).

Turning the tide on the opioid overdose epidemic will require a comprehensive strategy across a range of sectors. Passage of CARA was an important first step, and we urge Congress to act quickly to make the funding available for the new programs authorized in that law and for the existing core programs that provide lifesaving access to prevention, treatment and recovery programs. Thank you.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Public Health Association
AmeriSourceBergen Corporation
Association of Recovery Community Organizations
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
Collegium Pharmaceutical
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Community Catalyst
ECI Communications
Faces and Voices of Recovery
Illinois Association for Behavioral Health
Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy
Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
National Association of Counties
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
National Safety Council
Pacira Pharmaceuticals

Shatterproof
The Gerontological Society of America
The Honorable Mary Bono
Trust for America's Health
Verde Technologies