

January 4, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Grassley and Goodlatte, Ranking Members Leahy and Conyers:

We write in support of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015, introduced by Senators Whitehouse, Portman, Ayotte, Klobuchar, Coons, and Kirk, and Congressmen Sensenbrenner and Scott, S. 524/H.R. 953, which will make important advancements to effectively address the growing epidemic of drug abuse in the United States.

Heroin use and misuse of prescription painkillers is having a devastating effect on public health and safety in communities across the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdoses now surpass automobile accidents as the leading cause of injury-related death for Americans between the ages of 25 and 64. 120 Americans die as a result of overdose in this country every day.

We know that addiction is a treatable disease, but we also know that only about 10 percent of those who need treatment are receiving it. Discoveries in the science of addiction have led to advances in drug abuse treatment that can help people stop abusing drugs and resume their productive lives.

We know from researchers, the law enforcement community, and treatment providers that the most effective way to address the challenges posed is to initiate a comprehensive response to the twin epidemics of opioid and heroin addiction that includes ***prevention, law enforcement strategies, preventing overdose deaths, expansion of evidence-based treatment, and support for those in, or seeking, recovery.***

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015 will:

- Expand prevention and educational efforts—particularly aimed at teens, parents and other caretakers, and aging populations—to prevent the abuse of opioids and heroin and to promote treatment and recovery.
- Expand the availability of naloxone to law enforcement agencies and other first responders to help in the reversal of overdoses to save lives.
- Expand resources to identify and treat incarcerated individuals suffering from addiction disorders promptly by collaborating with criminal justice stakeholders and by providing evidence-based treatment.
- Expand disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications to keep them out of the hands of our children and adolescents.
- Launch an evidence-based opioid and heroin treatment and interventions program. While we

have services and medications that can help treat addiction, there is a critical need to get the training and resources necessary to expand use of evidence-based treatment services and medications to assist in treatment and recovery throughout the country.

- Strengthen prescription drug monitoring programs to help states monitor and track prescription drug diversion and to help at-risk individuals access services.

Only through a comprehensive approach, such as that included in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015, that leverages evidence-based law enforcement and health care services, including treatment, can we stop and reverse current trends. The goal is to implement these programs to test and demonstrate strategies without creating new programs and including the required offsets. The cost of the bill is kept low at approximately 65 million per year with no impact on mandatory spending.

We are grateful for your leadership and urge all Members of Congress to support The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015.

Sincerely,

1. ACACIA NETWORK, Inc.
2. Alkermes, Inc.
3. American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
4. American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
5. American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence
6. American Correctional Association
7. American Psychological Association
8. American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)
9. Arizona's Children Association
10. Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
11. Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
12. Association for Behavioral Healthcare
13. Association for Behavioral Healthcare of Massachusetts
14. Association of Recovery Schools
15. Association of Recovery in Higher Education
16. Association to Benefit Children
17. Behavioral Enhancement and Substance Abuse Medicine Treatment, B.E.S.T.PLLC – Dear Park, NY
18. Big Cities Health Coalition
19. California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP)
20. Center for Behavioral Health Services
21. Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.
22. Clinical Social Work Association
23. The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc.
24. CODAC—Rhode Island
25. Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council
26. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
27. Community Behavioral Health Association of MD
28. Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois
29. Community Catalyst
30. Comprehensive Connections
31. DEA Educational Foundation

32. Division on Substance Abuse at the Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
33. Dorchester County Health Department, Maryland
34. Employee Assistance Professionals Association – Long Island Chapter
35. Faces and Voices of Recovery
36. Family Services of Westchester
37. Father Martin’s Ashley
38. FedCURE
39. Michael Fine, Director of Public Health, Rhode Island
40. Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association
41. Florida Council for Community Mental Health
42. Friends of Recovery New York
43. Georgia Association of Community Service Boards
44. Getting Out and Staying Out
45. Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey, Inc.
46. The Guidance Center of Westchester, Inc.
47. Harm Reduction Coalition
48. Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation
49. Hope Network
50. Horizon Health Services and Horizon Village, Inc.
51. Housing Works
52. Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association (IADDA)
53. International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)
54. International CURE
55. Iowa Behavioral Health Association
56. Joel K. Johnson, President and CEO, Human Resources Development Institute, Inc.
57. Kings Park in the kNOw Community Coalition – Kings Park, NY
58. Legal Action Center
59. The Long Island Center for Recovery – Hampton Bays, NY
60. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
61. Major County Sheriffs Association
62. The Maine Association of Substance Abuse Services
63. The McShin Foundation
64. Mental Health America
65. Mental Health Association of Westchester County
66. Michigan CURE
67. Mike Matarazzo
68. Minnesota Recovery Connection
69. Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare
70. Missouri Recovery Network
71. NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
72. National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
73. National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
74. National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA)
75. National Association of County and City Health Officials
76. National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors
77. National Association of State Alcohol and Substance Abuse Director

78. National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
79. National Athletic Trainers' Association
80. National Council for Behavioral Health
81. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD)
82. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of New Jersey (NCADD-NJ)
83. National District Attorneys Association
84. National Health Care for the Homeless Council
85. National Safety Council
86. NADAP
87. New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
88. New York Therapeutic Communities Inc. Stay'n Out Programs
89. North Shore Youth Council – Rocky Point, NY
90. Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association
91. Charles P. O'Brien, MD, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania
92. The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers
93. Osborne Association
94. Partnership for Drug-Free Kids
95. Patricia Sams, Vice-President Stone County Alliance for Recovery
96. Pederson-Krag
97. Peninsula Counseling Center
98. Phoenix House
99. Raising Heroin Awareness
100. Recover Wyoming
101. RI International
102. Samaritan Village
103. Senator Richard Sears, Vermont
104. Sky Light Center
105. Spanish Speaking Elderly Council – RAICES
106. Dr. Eric Strain, Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit, Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine
107. StepUP Program, Augsburg College
108. The Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of Rhode Island
109. Suffolk County Bureau of Public Health Nursing
110. Susan P Murrell, Substance Use Clinical Coordinator, Health Choice Integrated Care,
LLC
111. TASC Illinois
112. Tennessee Association of Alcohol, Drug & other Addiction Services
113. Transitions Mental Health Services
114. Treatment Communities of America
115. The Treatment Research Institute
116. Trust for America's Health
117. United We C.A.N. Change Addiction Now - National
118. Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center
119. Debra L. Wentz, Ph.D., CEO of New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction
Agencies, Inc.
120. WestCare Foundation
121. Yes Community Counseling - Levittown, NY

122. Young People in Recovery – National
123. Young People in Recovery – Albany, NY
124. Young People in Recovery – Austin, TX
125. Young People in Recovery – Madison, WI
126. Youth Evaluation and Treatment Centers (YETC)