

COALITION TO
STOP OPIOID
OVERDOSE

May 8, 2019

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
United States House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Cummings and Senator Warren,

The undersigned organizations in the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose (CSOO) and other undersigned organizations are writing today to voice our support for your bill – the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act of 2019.

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 the third year in a row, life expectancy in the United States declined largely because of rising drug overdose deaths.ⁱⁱ Given these alarming statistics, we appreciate your leadership in the development of 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, your 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 your 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 introducing the CARE Act of 2019, and we look forward to working with you to secure its passage.

Sincerely,

1. A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)
2. Achieving Recovery Together, Inc.
3. Addiction Haven
4. Advocates for Recovery Colorado
5. American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work*
6. American College of Medical Toxicology
7. American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians
8. American Dance Therapy Association*
9. American Group Psychotherapy Association*
10. American Medical Student Association
11. American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine
12. American Psychological Association
13. American Society of Addiction Medicine
14. amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
15. Anxiety and Depression Association of America*
16. Apricity
17. Association for Behavioral & Cognitive Therapies*
18. Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA)
19. Association of Recovery Community Organizations (ARCO)
20. California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
21. Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
22. CFC Loud N Clear Foundation
23. Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition (CRCC)
24. Communities for Recovery
25. Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
26. Continuum Care Center
27. Coweta F.O.R.C.E.
28. Darjune Recovery Support Services & Café
29. DC Recovery Community Alliance
30. Detroit Recovery Project

31. Faces & Voices of Recovery
32. FAVOR Grand Strand
33. FAVOR Greenville
34. FAVOR Low County
35. FAVOR Pee Dee
36. FAVOR SC
37. FAVOR Tri-County
38. Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
39. Floridians for Recovery
40. Foundation for Recovery
41. Friends of Recovery New York
42. George B. Crane Memorial Center
43. Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
44. Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice*
45. Great Bear Recovery Collective
46. Hansen Recovery Resource Center
47. Harm Reduction Coalition
48. Hope for New Hampshire Recovery
49. iHOPE Inc.
50. Indiana Addiction Issues Coalition
51. International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC & RC)
52. Jackson Area Recovery Community
53. LifeHouse Recovery Connection
54. Living Proof Recovery
55. Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA)
56. Lost Dreams Awakening, Inc.
57. Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
58. Many Paths One Destination
59. Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
60. Message Carriers of Pennsylvania, Inc.
61. Middlesex County Recovery Community Center
62. Midlands Recovery Center
63. Minnesota Alternatives
64. Minnesota Recovery Connection
65. Missouri Network for Opiate Reform and Recovery
66. Missouri Recovery Network
67. National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery (NAMA Recovery)
68. National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
69. National Association for Children's Behavioral Health*
70. National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
71. National Association of Social Workers*
72. National Board for Certified Counselors
73. National Council for Behavioral Health
74. National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health*
75. National Safety Council

76. Navigate Recovery Gwinnett
77. Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region
78. New Jersey Coalition for Addiction Recovery Support
79. Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery
80. Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery & Treatment Association (OCARTA)
81. Peer Coach Academy Colorado/Embark
82. Peer360 Recovery Alliance
83. Peers Empowering Peers
84. Pennsylvania Recovery Organization – Achieving Community Together – (PRO-ACT)
85. Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)
86. People Advocating Recovery – PAR
87. People Living in Recovery (PLR)
88. Portland Recovery Community Center
89. Reality Check, Inc.
90. Rebel Recovery FL
91. Reboot Jackson
92. Recover Wyoming
93. Recovery – Friendly Taos County
94. Recovery Alliance El Paso
95. Recovery Café
96. Recovery Communities of North Carolina
97. Recovery Community Connection
98. Recovery Community of Durham
99. Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
100. Recovery Epicenter Foundation, Inc.
101. Recovery Force of Atlantic County
102. Recovery is Happening
103. Recovery Organization of Support Specialist
104. RecoveryATX
105. Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES)
106. ROCovery Fitness
107. Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center
108. School Social Work Association of America*
109. SMART Recovery
110. Soberkerrville/Lotus Peer Recovery
111. Society of Physician Assistants in Addiction Medicine
112. Solano Recovery Project
113. Solutions Recovery, Inc.
114. SOS Recovery Community Organization
115. SpiritLife Recovery Community Center
116. SpiritWorks Foundation
117. Springs Recovery Connection
118. Student Coalition on Addiction
119. Sunrise Community for Recovery & Wellness
120. The Bridge Foundation

121. The Courage Center
122. The DOOR – Dekalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
123. The Kennedy Forum
124. The McShin Foundation
125. The Phoenix
126. The RASE Project, Central Florida
127. The RASE Project, Harrisburg, Carlisle, Lancaster, Lebanon, York, Hanover
128. The Serenity House of Flint
129. There is No Hero in Heroin
130. Tia Hart Recovery Community Program
131. Treatment Communities of America
132. Trilogy Recovery Community
133. Twin Cities Recovery Project
134. U MARC (United Mental Health and Addictions Recovery Coalition)
135. Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA)
136. Vermont Recovery Network
137. Voices of Hope for Cecil County
138. Voices of Hope Lexington
139. Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
140. WAI-IAM, Inc. and Rise Recovery Community
141. Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)
142. WEcovery (Formerly Beyond Brink)
143. Will's Place
144. Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization (WIRCO)
145. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery
146. Young People in Recovery

*Not a CSOO 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