

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We are writing to provide you an update and express our support for the current infrastructure that Congress has built to combat our nation's ongoing heroin and prescription drug epidemic. Through bipartisan work Congress has responded to the overwhelming stress addiction has placed on our communities with 34 key programs at the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Department of Justice that tackle substance abuse, including the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act that you strongly supported throughout your campaign. This structure provides law enforcement resources, prevention, treatment, recovery support, overdose reversal and criminal justice initiatives. The \$9.3 billion included in these programs may seem like a large investment, but is our base line of defense in responding to addiction which costs the United States \$700 billion annually.

In 2015, drug overdose deaths continued to climb to more than 52,000; by comparison, 38,000 people died due to automobile accidents in 2015. Opioid were the main driver of overdose deaths, accounting for more than 33,000 fatalities. There is no question that heroin and opioid addiction ruins lives, disrupts families and contributes to destabilizing our neighborhoods.

Communities in our districts continue to struggle to respond to the opioid epidemic. Local government officials, hospitals, teachers, law enforcement, child service agencies, judges, and advocates all have the same message – they need help and they need more funding.

Level funding for these programs would continue the progress our communities are making in tackling this ongoing epidemic and increase their resources so they have the services necessary to help the men and women battling this disease.

You called for passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and said, “we will give the people struggling with addiction access to the help they need.” As your Administration works to prepare the upcoming Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, funding for a comprehensive approach to tackling the opioid epidemic, including prevention treatment, law enforcement strategies, overdose reversal, recovery support, and criminal justice is the next step.

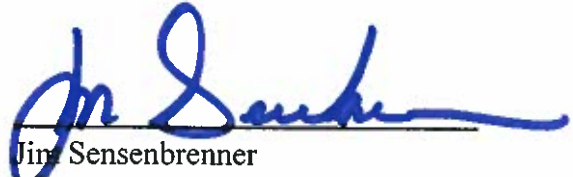
The numbers do not lie. This problem is only getting worse. We must act now. We stand ready to continue this critical funding, which will provide our communities the resources necessary to not only prevent addiction, but create access to treatment and recovery to save lives.

As your administration works to prepare a budget, we hope it will keep these commitments in mind. We look forward to your response.


Sincerely,



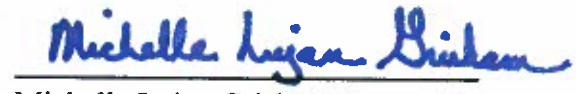
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Jim Sensenbrenner
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Paul Tonko
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Michelle Lujan Grisham
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Ann McLane Kuster
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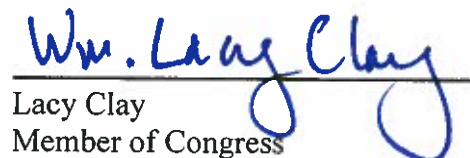
Grace F. Napolitano
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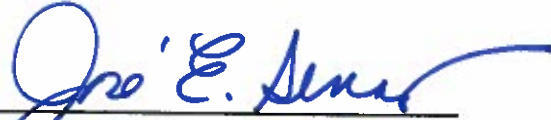
Dave Loebsack
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Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



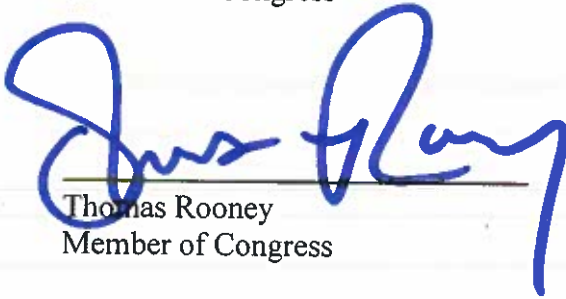
Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress



Jose Serrano
Member of Congress



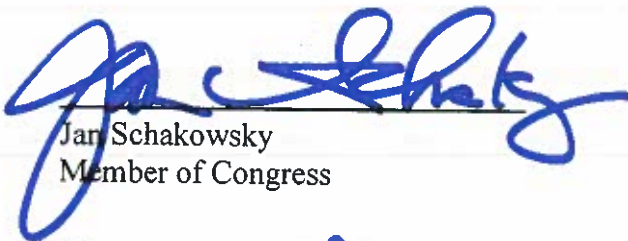
Bill Foster
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Thomas Rooney
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Niki Tsongas
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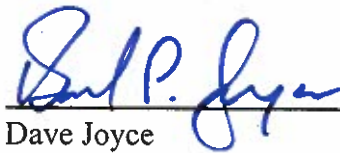
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



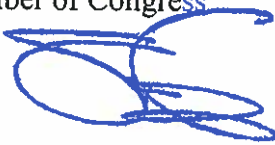
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