Dear President Obama:

Thank you for your commitment of the Administration to address the heroin and opioid epidemic. As you know, deaths related to heroin and opioid abuse continue to rise at alarming rates throughout the nation. We continue to see the devastating effects of heroin and opioid abuse on public health and safety across nearly every community in the United States.

We appreciate that you signed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) into law on July 22, 2016. This legislation was crafted and supported on a bipartisan basis and was developed with the input and guidance of members of the Administration. CARA is supported by a contingency of national stakeholders in the public health, law enforcement, criminal justice, and drug policy fields. CARA was designed to fight prescription opioid abuse and heroin use holistically – by promoting prevention and education, expanding treatment and recovery support services.

Now that the CARA authorization measure is the law of the land, we must fully fund these new initiatives. We are grateful that you pledged to continue to fight for funding when you signed CARA into law. We know that the Administration regularly informs Congress about high-priority funding requests, or anomalies, that require urgent action. In light of the deadly heroin and prescription drug epidemic in this country, we urge the Administration to request an anomaly to fully fund the programs and initiatives in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act in the continuing resolution for FY17. It is critical that we work together to ensure that the $181 million authorized by CARA will be available for states and communities to expand prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts for the millions of Americans who are affected by substance use disorders.

Once we provide significant new resources to work hand in hand with the policies outlined in CARA, it will help states and communities develop and implement evidence-based programs to respond to this epidemic. CARA expands prevention and educational efforts to prevent prescription opioid abuse and the use of heroin and increases drug disposal sites to keep medications out of the hands of youth. CARA authorizes law enforcement task-forces to combat heroin and methamphetamine, and expands the availability of the overdose reversal drug naloxone to law enforcement agencies and first responders. In the criminal justice system, CARA will help to promptly identify and treat individuals suffering from substance use disorders and expand diversion and education efforts to give individuals a second chance.

CARA also authorizes resources to expand treatment, including Medication Assisted Treatment. CARA allows veterans who were discharged for a substance abuse disorder to use drug courts as they recover. This legislation also expands drug treatment for pregnant women who struggle with addiction and provides support for babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome. CARA supports recovery programs including those focused on youth and building communities of recovery where recovery support services are provided.

It is only through a comprehensive approach that we can leverage evidence-based law enforcement and health care services, including treatment, to stop and reverse current trends. We urge you to request that Congress include an anomaly in the FY17 continuing resolution to fully fund this bipartisan legislation.
Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with the Administration and with the Congress to secure the resources necessary to allow CARA to help families and communities impacted by the heroin and opioid epidemic.

Sincerely,

1. Addiction Policy Forum
3. A New PATH
4. Advocates for Recovery Colorado
5. Alano Club of Portland
6. American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine
7. Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA)
8. Association of Recovery Schools
10. California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
11. Capital Area Project Vox
12. Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
13. Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition (CRCC)
14. Communities for Recovery
15. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
16. Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
17. DarJune Recovery Support Services & Café
18. DarJune Recovery Support Services & Café
19. DC Recovery Community Alliance
20. Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.
21. Dorchester Recovery Initiative
22. Easy Does It, Inc.
23. El Paso Alliance
24. Engaged Recovery Community Services
25. FAVOR Greenville
26. FAVOR Mississippi Recovery Advocacy Project
27. FAVOR Pee Dee
28. FAVOR Tri-County
29. Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
30. Floridians for Recovery
31. Foundation for Recovery
32. Friends of Recovery - New York
33. Gem County Recovery Community Center
34. Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
35. Greater Macomb Project Vox
36. HOPE for New Hampshire Recovery
37. IC&RC
38. Illinois Association of Behavioral Health
39. Jackson Area Recovery Community
40. Juneau Recovery Community
41. Latah Recovery Center
42. Lifehouse Recovery Connection
43. Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA)
44. Lost Dreams Awaken Center, Inc.
45. Lotus Peer Recovery/SoberKerrville
46. Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
47. Maryland Recovery Organization Connecting Communities (M-ROCC)
48. Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
49. Message Carriers of Pennsylvania, Inc.
50. Mi-HOPE - Michigan Heroin & Opiate Prevention and Education
51. Michigan Recovery Voices
52. Minnesota Recovery Connection
53. Missouri Recovery Network
54. National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
55. National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
56. National Council for Behavioral Health
57. National District Attorneys Association
58. Navigate Recovery
59. Newport Brain Research Laboratory
60. Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA)
61. Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery & Treatment Association (OCARTA)
62. P.E.E.R Wellness Center, Inc.
63. Partnership for Drug-Free Kids
64. PEER360 Recovery Alliance
65. Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together - (PRO-ACT)
66. Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)
67. People Advocating Recovery - PAR
68. PLR Athens
69. RASE Project
70. Recover Project/Western MA Training
71. Recover Wyoming
72. Recovery - Friendly Taos County
73. Recovery Allies Of West Michigan
74. Recovery Communities of North Carolina
75. Recovery Community Of Durham
76. Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
77. Recovery Idaho, Inc.
78. Recovery is Happening
79. RecoveryATX
80. RecoveryNC (Governors Institute on Substance Abuse)
81. reGROUP
82. Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICAREs)
83. Shatterproof
84. SMART Recovery
85. Solano Recovery Project
86. Springs Recovery Connection
87. T.O.R.C.H Inc.
88. The Bridge Foundation
89. The DOOR - DeKalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
90. The McShin Foundation
91. The National Association for Rural Mental Health
92. The National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
93. Tia Hart Recovery Community Program
94. Trilogy Recovery Community
95. Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA)
96. Vermont Recovery Network
97. Virginia Association of Recovery Residences
98. Voices of Hope for Cecil County
99. Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
100. WAI-IAM, Inc. and RISE Recovery Community
101. Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)
102. WholeLife Recovery Community/ Arizona Recovery Coalition
103. Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization (WIRCO)
104. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery