

September 20, 2016

Senator Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Thad Cochran
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Barbara Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators McConnell, Cochran, Reid, and Mikulski:

Thank you for your commitment 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 your support of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), which was signed 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 fund these new initiatives. We are grateful that you addressed the need for funding when CARA was under consideration in the Senate. In light of the deadly heroin and prescription drug epidemic in this country, we urge Senate leadership to include an anomaly to provide funding for these programs and initiatives in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act in the continuing resolution so we can then continue to work on funding in the FY17 omnibus. 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 Congress to include an anomaly in the FY17 continuing resolution to provide funding to this bipartisan legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with 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
2. A New PATH
3. Advocates for Recovery Colorado
4. Alano Club of Portland
5. American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine
6. Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA)
7. Association of Recovery Schools
8. Bangor Area Recovery Network, Inc.
9. California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
10. Capital Area Project Vox
11. Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
12. Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition (CRCC)
13. Communities for Recovery
14. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
15. Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
16. DarJune Recovery Support Services & Café
17. DC Recovery Community Alliance
18. Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.
19. Dorchester Recovery Initiative
20. Easy Does It, Inc.
21. El Paso Alliance
22. Engaged Recovery Community Services
23. FAVOR Greenville
24. FAVOR Mississippi Recovery Advocacy Project
25. FAVOR Pee Dee
26. FAVOR Tri-County

27. Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
28. Floridians for Recovery
29. Foundation for Recovery
30. Friends of Recovery - New York
31. Gem County Recovery Community Center
32. Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
33. Greater Macomb Project Vox
34. Hope on Haven Hill
35. HOPE for New Hampshire Recovery
36. IC&RC
37. Illinois Association of Behavioral Health
38. Jackson Area Recovery Community
39. Juneau Recovery Community
40. Latah Recovery Center
41. Lifehouse Recovery Connection
42. Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA)
43. Lost Dreams Awaken Center, Inc.
44. Lotus Peer Recovery/SoberKerrville
45. Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
46. Maryland Recovery Organization Connecting Communities (M-ROCC)
47. Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
48. Message Carriers of Pennsylvania, Inc.
49. Mi-HOPE - Michigan Heroin & Opiate Prevention and Education
50. Michigan Recovery Voices
51. Minnesota Recovery Connection
52. Missouri Recovery Network
53. MOMSTELL Inc.
54. The Moyer Foundation
55. National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
56. National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA)
57. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
58. National Council for Behavioral Health
59. National District Attorneys Association
60. Navigate Recovery
61. Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA)
62. Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery & Treatment Association (OCARTA)
63. P.E.E.R Wellness Center, Inc.
64. Partnership for Drug-Free Kids
65. PEER360 Recovery Alliance
66. Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together - (PRO-ACT)
67. Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)
68. People Advocating Recovery - PAR
69. PLR Athens
70. RASE Project
71. (REAL- Michigan) Recovery, Education, Advocacy & Leadership

72. Recover Project/Western MA Training
73. Recover Wyoming
74. Recovery - Friendly Taos County
75. Recovery Allies Of West Michigan
76. Recovery Communities of North Carolina
77. Recovery Community Of Durham
78. Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
79. Recovery Idaho, Inc.
80. Recovery is Happening
81. RecoveryATX
82. RecoveryNC (Governors Institute on Substance Abuse)
83. reGROUP
84. Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICAREs)
85. SMART Recovery
86. Solano Recovery Project
87. Springs Recovery Connection
88. Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow
89. T.O.R.C.H Inc.
90. The Bridge Foundation
91. The DOOR - DeKalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
92. The McShin Foundation
93. The National Family Dialogue for Families of Youth With Substance Use Disorders
94. Tia Hart Recovery Community Program
95. Treatment Research Institute
96. Trilogy Recovery Community
97. Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA)
98. Vermont Recovery Network
99. Virginia Association of Recovery Residences
100. Voices of Hope for Cecil County
101. Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
102. WAI-IAM, Inc. and RISE Recovery Community
103. Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)
104. WholeLife Recovery Community/ Arizona Recovery Coalition
105. Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization (WIRCO)
106. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery