



August 11, 2017

The Honorable Katherine Clark  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1415 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1005 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Clark and Representative Bucshon:

The Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose (CSOO) is pleased to endorse the *Youth Opioid Use Treatment Help (YOUTH) Act* (HR 3382).

The CSOO is a coalition of diverse stakeholders united around common policy goals that will lead to meaningful and comprehensive policies to promote opioid addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery.

As you know, our nation is in the midst of an opioid misuse and overdose epidemic; drug overdoses are the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S., having surpassed traffic fatalities. Adolescents and youth are not immune from this epidemic and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimates 276,000 adolescents aged 12 to 17 were current nonmedical users of prescription pain medications in 2015. The same year, 5,000 adolescents were current heroin users and 21,000 reported heroin use in the past year.<sup>1</sup>

The YOUTH Act would ensure adolescents have access to vital prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. Specifically, the legislation would reauthorize grants to provide substance use disorder treatment services to children, adolescents, and young adults and establish a demonstration programs to expand access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid addiction among adolescents and young adults. Additionally, the bill would require the Comptroller General to conduct an important study on how federal agencies are addressing substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery among adolescents and young adults.

We must use all available resources to combat the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic, particularly among our nation's youth. The YOUTH Act would help ensure life-saving treatment options are accessible to our nation's adolescents and young adults. We support the goals of the bill, stand ready to serve as a resource to you and your staffs and look forward to working with you to secure the legislation's passage.



Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
CADA of Northwest Louisiana  
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals  
Central City Concern  
Connecticut Certification Board  
IC&RC  
Illinois Association of Behavioral Health  
International Nurses Society on Addictions (IntNSA)  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse  
National Safety Council  
Shatterproof  
Treatment Communities of America  
Young People in Recovery

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<sup>1</sup> Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2016). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (HHS Publication No. SMA 16-4984, NSDUH Series H-51). Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/>.